

The Shakespeare Apocrypha

Being a collection of Fourteen
Plays which have been ascribed to
Shakespeare



*Edited with Introduction, Notes,
and Bibliography by*

C.F. Tucker Brooke

The ambition of the editor of this collection (first published in 1908 and out of print since 1947) was to provide an accurate and complete text, with adequate critical and supplementary matter, of all those plays which can, without entire absurdity, be included in the 'doubtful Shakespearean' class.

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THE SHAKESPEARE APOCRYPHA

BEING A COLLECTION OF FOURTEEN PLAYS
WHICH HAVE BEEN ASCRIBED TO
SHAKESPEARE

EDITED, WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

BY

C. F. TUCKER BROOKE

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PREFACE

THIS volume is designed to satisfy a need which during the past two generations has been variously and often expressed. The ambition of the editor has been to provide an accurate and complete text, with adequate critical and supplementary matter, of all those plays which can, without entire absurdity, be included in the 'doubtfully Shakespearian' class. A similar work—to comprise the first thirteen dramas in this book, in addition to *The Arraignment of Paris*, *The Death of Stucley*, and *The Siege of Antwerp*—appears, indeed, on the list of suggested publications of the New Shakspeare Society (*Transactions*, 1874, p. 4), but it did not get beyond the stage of projection.

Since the days of Malone, only three of the works before us—*Arden of Feversham*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, and *Sir Thomas More*—have appeared in English-speaking countries in what can at all justly be termed independently edited texts. Tolerable versions of four others have been published by Germans in editions now practically unprocurable. As regards the other seven plays, no real attempt at purification of the text or collation of the early editions has been made, if made at all, for more than two centuries, and in the case of *Sir John Oldcastle*, it has remained for this book to give the very first reprint of what is most unmistakably the only reliable and uncorrupted version. Thus considerable and important passages appear here for the first time since 1600.

In the preparation of the body of the text, the main object has been to give a faithful reproduction of the most authoritative edition of each play; that is, of the earliest, except in the rare instances where a later edition is demonstrably truer to the author's manuscript. Supplementary passages are printed, within brackets, from the earliest edition which contains them. Where a variant or an emendation has appeared inevitable, it has been adopted, but the reading of the *editio princeps* has invariably been given in the footnotes. Great pains have been taken—it is hoped with a fair measure of success—to register in the footnotes all variants in accessible sixteenth and seventeenth-century editions which are not purely orthographic, and all such later emendations and conjectures as possess any degree of usefulness or probability.

Silent alteration of the original has been tolerated only in such purely mechanical matters as the abandonment of the long 's'; the correction of obviously unintentional mis-spacing; the rectifying of the most transparent typographical errors, such as *Flaunderss* for *Flaunders* (*Edward III*, i. i. 151) and *thinekst* for *thinkest* (*Ibid.* ii. i. 98); and the introduction of modern punctuation where the

sense would otherwise be unintelligible to the ordinary reader. The old punctuation is, however, retained where possible, and all misprints which can conceivably have interest or significance are recorded in the footnotes. The numeration of lines is, of course, new, and it should be noted that the parts of divided metrical lines are often separately numbered for convenience of reference and in order to preserve the appearance of the original page.

It is believed that the text will be found as free from inaccuracy as a reprint can well be made. Except for the few additional passages from the third quarto of *Mucedorus*, personally copied by the editor, transcription has in no case been trusted. The texts of the six plays contained in the third Shakespeare folio and that of the first edition of *Mucedorus* have been based on photographic facsimiles of the original quartos; the other plays are printed from the best modern old-spelling editions very carefully corrected by the originals. The collation of the early editions has been done twice to ensure accuracy, and the proof sheets revised by the original quartos. Particular care has been taken to verify readings which are in opposition to those recorded by other modern editors.

The general notes are to be considered in connexion with the footnotes. They have been kept within modest compass, and their *raison d'être*—the explanation or defence of the readings of the text—has perhaps not often been lost sight of. If more general comments have here and there intruded themselves, it is trusted that they will be found always to serve some more legitimate purpose than the mere display of 'all such reading as was never read'.

Like so many students of Elizabethan literature, I have to acknowledge a large debt of gratitude to Mr. P. A. Daniel. My obligations to him for textual comments and conjectures, particularly relating to *The Merry Devil of Edmonton* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, will, I hope, be sufficiently evident from the notes to those plays; but for a great deal of other trouble willingly undertaken on my behalf I have only this opportunity of rendering my sincere thanks. I am equally indebted to Dr. Furnivall for unfailing interest and sympathy as well as for a number of valuable suggestions for my Introduction; and I gladly take this occasion of expressing also my recognition of Dr. W. Aldis Wright's courtesy to me while reading in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge, and since.

Finally, it is with especial pleasure that I acknowledge my many obligations to Professor Raleigh, to whom are due both the original inspiration for this book and continued helpful encouragement during its preparation. It is my sincere hope that the volume may be regarded as a testimony and a small tribute to the force of his influence and example.

C. F. T. B

January, 1908.

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INTRODUCTION

THE *Shakespeare Apocrypha* are indisputably the work of many hands, varying to the extreme of possibility in strength, in skill, and in manner. Not even the amateur Tieck, insatiable in his quest of literary curios, has had the hardihood to ascribe the entire number to the greatest of the Elizabethans. Yet unequal as they are in literary merit, these plays diverge still more, if possible, in subject-matter, style, and general tone. Between certain individuals of the group, indeed, a few similarities may be noted and a few comparisons drawn; but to attempt to treat the collection comprehensively and as a generic whole would be like undertaking a family history of Falstaff's motley company. The pseudo-Shakespearian plays are waifs and strays of the Elizabethan drama, brought together adventitiously from here, there, and everywhere, and with no common bond but that mighty name, beneath whose broad influence they all seek shelter.

Disconcerting though it is to the commentator, this infinite variety yet lends a special zest to the consideration of the pseudo-Shakespearian cycle. The plays are almost without exception interesting, but for very different reasons. Two of them, *Arden of Feversham* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, and probably they alone, can rest their case boldly on their character as artistic wholes and claim a position, when judged thus in their entirety, in the very first rank of the extra-Shakespearian drama. Three others—*Edward III*, *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, and *Sir Thomas More*—failing either in dignity or in unity of outline, rise in parts to an equal height of poetry, a height where the question becomes less whether they are good enough for Shakespeare than whether they are like him.

The remaining members of the group belong distinctly to a lower order, that is, except on the theory of apprentice work or the hastiest of retouching, modern criticism can hardly admit their claim of Shakespearian origin to be even plausible. Yet there is scarcely any other dramatist of the period, save Marlowe and Ben Jonson, whose reputation would suffer by the fathering of plays like *The London Prodigal*, *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*, or *The Puritan*.

As there is no difficulty in selecting the five best pseudo-Shakespearian dramas, so there need be little hesitation in pointing out the worst. Literary and dramaturgical considerations would pretty certainly assign the position of discredit to *Fair Em* and *Mucedorus*, productions that bear the mark of vagabondage on every feature. Yet, for the reader of to-day, these plays, distinctly the weaklings of the flock, possess an attractiveness of their own by very virtue of their dull impersonality, because they display so little of the individual author and so much of the vulgar dramatic taste. Such literary phenomena evolve themselves, they are not created; the writer does no more than drift down the

current of theatrical convention, and is doubtless as undiscoverable—certainly as little worth discovering—as the author of a political election song or a low melodrama of a generation ago.

There is a curious dramatic irony in the fact that *Mucedorus* and *Fair Em* have been attributed by serious and respectable critics to the pen of Shakespeare. Composed in utter disregard of probability and reason, with little poetry and less psychology—with no particular merit, indeed, but the freshness that comes of complete unintelligent conventionality—these performances made their appeal frankly to the groundlings. In the case of *Mucedorus*, at least, we know that the appeal was enormously successful. This absurd play, with the merits and defects of a nursery tale, was acted by strolling companies everywhere till long after the Commonwealth, and passed through seventeen editions between 1598 and 1700—a record unequalled in the history of the pre-Restoration drama. The only play of the pseudo-Shakespearian class, which can at all compare with *Mucedorus* in popularity with the early book-publishers, is a considerably better comedy of similar kind, *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*. Six quarto editions of the latter are recorded between 1608 and 1655. It may be added, as a commentary on Shakespeare knowledge after the Restoration, that *Mucedorus*, *Fair Em*, and *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*, were bound together into a volume for the library of King Charles II with the label, 'Shakespeare. Vol. I.'

The *Shakespeare Apocrypha* have been accumulating during three centuries. Each generation has attributed to the poet, in good faith or in fraud, tentatively or with conviction, the authorship of plays with which his name had not previously been connected. At the same time, certain plays once ascribed to Shakespeare have gradually disappeared from the list, as the actual authors have been discovered or the absurdity of the ascription has made itself generally felt. In the present state of the case, the preparation of an adequate and practical catalogue of pseudo-Shakespearian plays is a matter of some difficulty. The epithet 'pseudo-Shakespearian' no longer carries with it any presumption as to Shakespeare's authorship. Certain plays, a baker's dozen in all, have acquired a prescriptive right to the title, and must be mentioned in every list; twenty or thirty others have at various times been proposed, with greater or less diffidence, but are still far from having established their position in the category. In regard to these last, each writer on the subject must decide for himself which may be admitted into the 'doubtfully Shakespearian' class without offence to the rules of critical seemliness. The catalogue of a seventeenth-century bookseller, for instance, gives to Shakespeare three histories: *Edward II*, *Edward III*, and *Edward IV*. The second of these is universally regarded as one of the doubtful plays, but to admit into the group either of the others, known to be by Marlowe and Heywood respectively, would show an absurdly uncritical deference to the blunder or deceit of the bookseller, the only mortal who has ever hinted at the connexion.

The long critical history of the *Shakespeare Apocrypha* divides itself into three

pretty well defined epochs. The first, which lasted from the close of the sixteenth century till well into the eighteenth, was the age of purely unliterary attribution. Plays were stated on title-pages, on the Stationers' Registers, or in book-lists to be by William Shakespeare, and there, for a time, the matter ended. No evidence, internal or external, was adduced in support of the attribution, and in few cases or none could the attributors by any stretch of the imagination be called literary critics. Such ascriptions are either the most authoritative of all, or they are utterly valueless; they may rest on personal knowledge or general contemporary report; they may, on the other hand, be no more than the fabrication of an ignorant or fraudulent bookseller. It requires a considerable amount of boldness to deny the *possibility* of Shakespeare's concern in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, in the face of the title-page of the first edition,¹ which declares it to be 'written by the memorable Worthies of their time; Mr. John Fletcher, and Mr. William Shakespeare, Gentlemen'; and the evidence of the Stationers' Registers² and first edition² of *A Yorkshire Tragedy* in favour of Shakespeare's authorship of that play is perhaps even stronger, because dating from the poet's lifetime. Yet an edition of *Sir John Oldcastle* in 1600 likewise bears the words, 'Written by William Shakespeare,' and this boast, absurd on the face of it, is proved mendacious beyond the shadow of a doubt, by the record in Henslowe's Diary of the actual authors: Munday, Drayton, Wilson, and Hathway. To sum up, we have in the seventeenth century practically no evidence to indicate that Shakespeare's dramatic activities extended beyond the list of canonical plays, save that of printers, publishers, and stationers. This evidence is worthy of serious consideration in case, and only in case, there is no *prima facie* cause to believe the witnesses grossly ignorant of the matter, or dishonestly intent on palming off their spurious wares as the works of Shakespeare.

The generation of Capell, Steevens, and Malone, ushered in the second epoch in the criticism of the doubtful plays. They and their followers took a purely literary point of view, judging the dramas on catholic lines and, in general, with accuracy and fairness, though they suffered from inadequate comprehension of the peculiarly distinguishing features of Shakespeare's art and placed a mischievous amount of confidence in such vanities as parallel passages and identical archaisms. This tendency of criticism—to which the apocryphal plays owe as much perhaps, after all, as to any that has so far succeeded it—vanished in a burst of midsummer madness with the wild attributions of Tieck and his romantic satellites.

For these last, Germans all, and incapable of appreciating the delicacies of English style, Shakespeare appears to have meant rather a poetic principle than a poet. Dazed by the newly discovered and ill-understood brilliance of the Shakespearian drama, they tended to appropriate to the individual poet qualities of freshness and freedom which, in truth, were the common property of the age. To this misconception and to the desire, so characteristic of later German

¹ 1634.² Both in 1608.

criticism, to outstrip Shakespeare's countrymen in magnifying his name, is due without doubt Tieck's championship of the genuineness of plays like *Mucedorus* and *George a Greene*.

Many of the utterances of Tieck and Schlegel concerning the doubtful plays form a crushing though unconscious parody of the general impressionist method inaugurated by Capell and Malone. The generation that followed Tieck saw the rise in England of the third tendency in the criticism of the *Shakespeare Apocrypha*. Here, as elsewhere, the trend of the time was towards more exact knowledge, towards the careful consideration and classification of minutiae; for the first time an attempt was made, and with a good measure of success, to establish definite criteria for style and spirit, whereby the work of one dramatist might be distinguished from that of another. The most tangible, but surely not the sole result of this effort is the development of the 'metrical tests'. The new system, however, is at least as liable to abuse as that which it superseded; at its best, exact knowledge of metrical and dramatic details shows itself chastened and directed by broad literary appreciation, as in Professor Spalding's essay on the authorship of *The Two Noble Kinsmen*; at its worst, as in some of Mr. Fleay's radical pronunciamientos, the ultimately all-important considerations of tone and spirit are either slighted or forced into unwilling compliance with the results of statistical tabulation.

The following is a list, as complete as seems practicable, of the uncanonical plays which have been ascribed to Shakespeare—arranged roughly according to the date of attribution:—

1. *The First Part of Sir John Oldcastle*, 1600. In this year appeared two editions, one anonymous, the other bearing the words: 'Written by William Shakespeare.'

2. *The London Prodigal*, 1605.

3. *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, 1608.

4, 5. *The Troublesome Reign of King John*, in two parts. The title-page of the edition of 1611 says: 'Written by W. Sh.' The earlier edition of 1591 was anonymous. There can be little doubt that the public was meant to interpret 'W. Sh.' as 'William Shakespeare', and these words indeed appeared in full on the title-page of the third edition (1622).

6, 7. *The First Part of the Contention betwixt the Two Famous Houses of Yorke and Lancaster* and *The True Tragedy of Richard, Duke of Yorke*. These old plays were reprinted in 1619 for T. P (avier), the title-page asserting them to be 'written by William Shakespeare, Gent.'

8. *The Taming of a Shrew*. Ascribed to Shakespeare in Smetwick's reprint, 1631. The first edition¹ is anonymous.

9. *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. Attributed to Fletcher and Shakespeare on title-page of the first edition, 1634.

10. *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*. Entered by H. Moseley in 1653 as by Shakespeare. All the early editions are anonymous.

11, 12. *Henry I* and *Henry II*, 'by Wm. Shakespeare and Robert Davenport,' so entered Sept. 9, 1653.

13. *The History of Cardenio*, 'A Play by Mr. Fletcher and Shakespeare;'

entered Sept. 9, 1653. It has been suggested that this play is identical with *Double Falsehood* (No. 25).

14. *The Second Maiden's Tragedy*. Entered Sept. 9, 1653, but read in MS. and approved by Sir George Buc as early as Oct. 31, 1611; printed 1824.¹ This is one of the three survivors of Warburton's famous collection of fifty-three manuscript plays, the rest of which were sacrificed by his cook to make pie-covers; in this way perished the only known copies of Nos. 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, which were likewise in Warburton's possession. *The Second Maiden's Tragedy* was labelled by Warburton 'A Play by William Shakespeare', but has been attributed also to Th. Goff and to Chapman.

15, 16, 17. *The History of King Stephen; Duke Humphrey, a Tragedy; Iphis and Ianthe, or a Marriage without a Man*. All these were entered on June 29, 1660, under Shakespeare's name. No. 16 may be a version of *Henry VI, Part 2*.

18. *The Arraignment of Paris*,² by Peele; ascribed to Shakespeare in the catalogues of the booksellers Kirkman, Winstanley, and others, 1656-70.

19. *The Birth of Merlin*. The first edition, 1662, claims William Shakespeare and William Rowley as joint authors.

20, 21. *Fair Em and Mucedorus*. A volume in Charles the Second's library, which contained these two plays and *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*, bore on the outside the title, 'Shakespeare. Vol. I.'

22, 23, 24. *The Puritan, Thomas Lord Cromwell, Locrine*. The first edition of each of these plays gives the author merely as 'W. S.' The earliest definite connexion with Shakespeare is their inclusion—together with *Oldcastle, The London Prodigal, A Yorkshire Tragedy, and Pericles*—in the third Shakespeare folio, 1664.

25. *Double Falsehood, or The Distrest Lovers*. Assigned to Shakespeare, perhaps fraudulently, by Theobald in the preface to the first edition, 1728.

26, 27, 28. *Edward II* (1594), *Edward III, Edward IV* (1600). Casually listed as Shakespeare's in an early bookseller's catalogue. *Edward III* was first seriously ascribed to Shakespeare by Capell in 1760.

29. *Arden of Feversham*. Shakespearian authorship was first suggested by Edward Jacob in 1770.

30, 31. *King Leir and his Daughters* (1605) and *George a Greene, the Pinner of Wakefield* (1599). First attributed by Tieck;³ 31 is now accepted as Robert Greene's.

32, 33, 34. *Wily Beguiled* (1606), *Satiro-Mastix* (1602), *A Warning for Fair Women* (1599). Ascribed to Shakespeare by W. Bernhardt⁴ in 1856; 33 is probably by Dekker.

35. *Sir Thomas More*. First printed, 1844; Shakespeare's part authorship suggested by Simpson in 1871.

From Mr. Simpson's list of doubtful plays⁵ may be added for the sake of completeness:

36. *The Merry Wives of 1602*.

37, 38. *The Prodigal Son* and *Titus and Vespasia*(n);⁶ both preserved only in worthless old German translations.

¹ In vol. i of *The Old English Drama*, London.

² 1st ed., 1584.

³ *Altenglisches Theater. oder Supplemente zum Shakespeare*. Berlin, 1811.

⁴ *Hamburger Litteraturblatt*, No. 79.

⁵ *Transactions*, New Shakspeare Society, 1875-6, p. 155 ff.

⁶ Mentioned by Henslowe. An early version of *Titus Andronicus*, printed in Cohn's *Shakespeare in Germany*. London, 1865.

39. The lost *Hamlet* of 1589 and 'Corambis' *Hamlet* of 1603.
40. *The True Tragedy of Richard III.* First edition, 1594.
41. *A Larum for London, or the Siege of Antwerp*, 1602.¹
42. *Albumazar*; generally accepted as the work of Tomkis. First edition in 1615.

From this catalogue ² *Pericles* and *Titus Andronicus* are designedly omitted because they have established their position in practice, if not in universal opinion, among the genuine works. It is hardly necessary to call attention to the further omission of such transparent and confessed forgeries as *Vortigern* ³ and *Henry the Second*,⁴ by W. H. Ireland, and *The Fifth of November*; or *The Gunpowder Plot*,⁵ by George Ambrose Rhodes.

Of the forty-two 'doubtful plays' just enumerated, only thirteen can be regarded as having acquired a real claim to the title; to these thirteen is added in the present volume *Sir Thomas More*, a play discovered less than a century ago and destitute, therefore, of prescriptive right of membership. Yet the evidence, internal and external, which can be submitted in defence of the pleasing idea that Shakespeare had a reviser's part in the authorship of *Sir Thomas More* is of so interesting and plausible a nature that no apology seems necessary for its inclusion. The following, then, are the names and earliest dates of publication of the fourteen dramas here reprinted, which alone appear entitled, on grounds either of reason or of custom, to a place among the *Shakespeare Apocrypha*:

- I. *Arden of Feversham*, 1592.
- II. *Lochrine*, 1595.
- III. *Edward III.*, 1596.
- IV. *Mucedorus*, 1598.
- V. *The First Part of Sir John Oldcastle*,⁶ 1600.
- VI. *Thomas Lord Cromwell*, 1602.
- VII. *The London Prodigal*, 1605.
- VIII. *The Puritan*, 1607.
- IX. *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, 1608.
- X. *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*, 1608.
- XI. *Fair Em.* First edition not dated; second edition, 1631.
- XII. *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, 1634.
- XIII. *The Birth of Merlin*, 1662.
- XIV. *Sir Thomas More*,⁷ 1840.

The exact likelihood of Shakespeare's connexion with any member of this various group must be determined by careful individual examination. On the whole, it may be said, the reader will be impressed more with the unlikeness of the doubtful to the authentic plays than with their likeness.

There can, indeed, be no stronger vindication of the honesty and intelligence of the editors of the first Shakespeare Folio, Hemings and Condell, than careful study of the works which they excluded. As all attempts to deprive the poet of

¹ Reprinted, 1872, by R. Simpson, *School of Shakespeare*, No. 1.

² For several other utterly absurd attributions cf. the catalogue of 1656 mentioned in my Bibliography, V. (b) 1 (p. 454).

³ 1799. Reprinted 1832.

⁴ 1799.

⁵ 1830.

⁶ The second part of this play is not extant.

⁷ Date of composition circa 1590.

a large interest in any of the thirty-six plays published by them have so far failed, so it seems in the highest degree improbable that their list will ever be augmented by more than the genuine act or two of *Pericles* and a few broken fragments which Shakespeare would doubtless have been the last of all men to include among his works.

As regards the fundamental matters of plot and dramatic structure, there is no member of the *Shakespeare Apocrypha*, with the exception possibly of *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, which displays special kinship with any genuine play. There is not, for instance, a single French or Italian plot to be found in the doubtful group and, except in the case of *Mucedorus* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, the leading characters are invariably English. In the Shakespeare canon the matter is entirely different; if we leave out of account the ten English histories, we find that fourteen out of twenty-seven genuine works have French or Italian plots, derived usually directly or indirectly from novels, while (with the necessary exception again of the ten histories, the closely associated *Merry Wives of Windsor*, and the three mythical British dramas) not a single authentic play is avowedly English either in scene or characters.

Moreover, seven of the apocryphal dramas belong to well-defined dramatic species, of which there is not a single instance among Shakespeare's accepted works, and which there is inherent reason for supposing he would have avoided. These species are :—

1. What may be termed the 'biographical history', represented by *Sir John Oldcastle*, *Thomas Lord Cromwell*, and *Sir Thomas More*. Such dramas depict in loosely cohering scenes disconnected passages from the life of the hero; structural chaos is the prerequisite of their existence. To this group belong also the first two acts of *Pericles*—which are certainly un-Shakespearian.

2. The dramatic record of contemporary crime. *Arden of Feversham* and *A Yorkshire Tragedy* are remarkably fine instances of a class which, because it concerns itself primarily with actual physical horror, can scarcely rise to the level of high art.

3. Comedy of contemporary London manners, of which *The London Prodigal* and *The Puritan* are examples. This type of drama, superlatively interesting to our age for its richness of topical allusion, is opposed to the method of Shakespeare, who sets his realistic sketches against a romantic background and never condescends, like Ben Jonson and the author of these plays, to copy the life before his door in all its uninspiring mediocrity.

It seems improbable, then, for many reasons, that Shakespeare had an interest in the original construction of any of the doubtful plays. When we consider the possibility, however, of his co-operation in the capacity of reviser or elaborator, there is less cause for disbelief. During his long and many-sided connexion with the stage, the poet-manager would doubtless have had occasion to retouch and refine much of the inferior work which came to his company. Several of the canonical plays bear witness that Shakespeare did, indeed, follow this usual

Elizabethan practice, but his acknowledged works would not naturally, and do not, include his slight or casual revisionary labours. It is at present a thoroughly permissible belief, though one which can hardly be strengthened into certainty, that some of the splendid passages in the best apocryphal plays are thus the hasty and fragmentary creation of the master's hand. More exact knowledge as to this and other points of interest can be acquired only, if at all, from the study of the individual plays, to the separate discussion of which we may now proceed.

I. *Arden of Feversham* was entered on the Stationers' Register on April 3, 1592.¹ The same year appeared the first edition, in quarto (Q. 1), with the following title-page: '*The Lamentable and True Tragedie of M. Arden of Feversham in Kent. Who was most wickedlye murdered, by the meanes of his disloyall and wanton wyfe, who for the love she bare to one Mosbie, hyred two desperat ruffins Blackwill and Shakbag, to kill him. Wherin is shewed the great mallice and discimulation of a wicked woman, the vnsatiable desire of filthie lust and the shamefull end of all murderers. Imprinted at London for Edward White, dwelling at the lyttle North dore of Paules Church at the signe of the Gun.* 1592.'

This edition, of which copies are preserved in the Bodleian and in the Dyce Collection, South Kensington, is in black letter; it gives a remarkably good text and appears to have been closely followed by the second edition (Q. 2), of 1599. The only copy of Q. 2 known to exist is in the library of the Duke of Devonshire. In 1633 a third quarto (Q. 3) was published; this poor edition, which is to be found both in the Bodleian and in the British Museum, has a different pagination from Q. 1, and is especially remarkable for the number of words it omits.

The murder which *Arden of Feversham* represents took place on February 15, 1550-1—considerably more than a generation, therefore, before the publication of the first edition, or the earliest date (1590) to which the actual writing of the play can easily be referred. Yet there can be no doubt that popular interest in the event was still lively and widespread. Holinshed's Chronicle contains a detailed account, which many common inaccuracies and embellishments show to have been followed closely by the author of the tragedy. Stow's Chronicle gives a brief narrative of the crime and its punishment, while the actual facts are recorded in the Wardmote Book of Faversham.

To the dramatic talent of Holinshed we seem to owe the story of the repeated unsuccessful attempts on Arden's life, and the merging of the two colourless individuals of the Wardmote Book into the single effective figure of Susan. Finally the Roxburghe Collection preserves a long ballad of forty-eight stanzas—probably inspired by the play—with the following title: '*Complaint and lamentation of Mistresse Arden of Feversham in Kent, who for the love of one Mosbie, hired certaine Ruffians and Villaines most cruelly to murder her Husband; with the fatall end of her and her Associats. To the tune of Fortune my Foe.*'

Not till nearly two centuries after the first appearance of *Arden of Feversham*,

¹ '3 Aprilis (1592). Edward white, Entred for his copie vnder th(e h)andes of the Lord Bishop of London and the wardens The tragedie of Arden of Feuersham and Blackwall (i.e. Black Will). vjd A.'

was the play coupled with the name of Shakespeare. This service—and, right or wrong, it should be deemed a service—we owe to a loyal but somewhat uncritical citizen of Faversham, Edward Jacob, who in 1770 published a reprint of the first edition with the title: ‘*The Lamentable and True Tragedie of M. Arden, of Feversham in Kent. . . . With a Preface; in which some Reasons are offered in favour of its being the earliest dramatic Work of Shakespeare now remaining . . .*’ The only reasons which Jacob actually offers are embraced in a scant half-page of parallel phrases between *Arden* and various genuine plays, and the similarity thus indicated is of so general a character as to prove nothing at all, beyond the obvious fact that *Arden of Feversham* and Shakespeare both belong to the Elizabethan period.¹

Around few plays has so large a mass of able criticism accumulated during the last century with so little definite result as around *Arden of Feversham*. Those readers who feel impelled to assign this fine tragedy to the pen of the youthful Shakespeare have on their side the great authority of Mr. Swinburné and the more hesitating testimony of Charles Knight, Delius, and the Dutch translator Kuitert. But the balance of critical opinion, it may safely be said, is turning slowly to the side of respectful incredulity, the side represented by Tytrel, Ulrici, Ward, Professor Saintsbury, Symonds, and the editors of the three modern texts: Mr. Bullen, Warnke and Proescholdt, and the Reverend Ronald Bayne.²

In considering the claim to authenticity of the work before us and others of its class, it is but fair to recognize that the reader’s sympathies will ordinarily incline him strongly toward their acceptance. Besides the pleasure involved in the fancied recognition of a real personality, and that the greatest, behind the frigid mask of anonymity, allowance must be made, particularly on first perusal, for the intoxicating effect of the poetry. In the five doubtful plays in which the question of Shakespeare’s authorship lends itself to rational discussion, there are gorgeous poetic passages that grip the imagination and overwhelm the reason. If, however (as is the case with regard to *Arden of Feversham* and its companions), our enthusiasm dies away when we consider the work in its dramatic entirety, or fit the words to the speaker, then surely we should pause long ere we venture on anything approaching a general attribution to Shakespeare. There is nothing fitful or transitory about the true Shakespearian quality; his creations gain, instead of losing, by repeated and various examination, and the very sign-manual of his work is the subordination of the expression to the idea, the complete amalgamation of the parts in the whole.

Arden of Feversham fails in all of these great tests, and a full century of the

¹ The following is the list of phrases and words for which Jacob cites Shakespearian parallels: ‘such a taunting letter,’ ‘painted cloth,’ ‘Mermaid’s song,’ ‘Basiliske,’ ‘lean faced knave,’ ‘white livered,’ ‘buy his merriment as dear,’ ‘Precisian,’ ‘a Raven for a Dove,’ ‘wild cat,’ ‘swear me on the interrogatories,’ ‘horned beast,’ ‘Endimion,’ ‘death makes amends for sin.’

² For more exact details as to works referred to here and elsewhere, readers are requested to consult the Bibliography.

most searching inquiry has not been able to add one iota to the probability of its authenticity. In such cases, not to advance is to recede hopelessly; were there enough of Shakespeare in *Arden of Feversham* to make up more than two or three purple patches at the most, its presence would long ago have made itself perceptible to the dullest vision, as it has done in the less intrinsically interesting play of *Pericles*.

Mr. Fleay and Mr. Charles Crawford¹ have argued with a considerable amount of plausibility that *Arden of Feversham* was written by Thomas Kyd, who is known to be the author of a prose work on a very similar subject, the murder of John Brewen. It seems likely that there are indeed more parallels in feeling and expression between our play and the tragedies of Kyd than coincidences will account for, but they presume imitation, as Sarrazin² and Mr. Boas³ have pointed out, rather than identity of authorship. Whether the unknown author of *Arden of Feversham* was debtor or creditor to Kyd, must for the present be left in uncertainty.

There is but one character of the first magnitude in *Arden of Feversham*: Alice, Arden's wife and murderess. It is her demoniacal persistence in the execution of her horrible purpose, while her confederates fail or fall away, that gives the tragedy—otherwise hopelessly disjointed and ineffective—an ultimate unity and a really dramatic spirit. To her, too, belong much of the finest poetry and the two most dramatic speeches,⁴ probably, in the play. Yet this gigantic figure is vulgarized and degraded by the two vices, which are most distinctively un-Shakespearian, and which, perhaps, it is hardest of all to pardon in a tragic heroine: purposeless revolting deceit and coarseness of feeling. Through all the dialogues between Alice and her husband, the reader is shocked by the moral obtuseness—the love of clever lying and hypocrisy for its own sake, even where there is no dramatic need for it—which is so entirely absent from Shakespeare's works and so unpleasantly conspicuous in many of his contemporaries'. So, too, Alice has little of the sustained delicacy of tragic feeling; from the heights of lofty passion she descends into the deepest mire of criminal brutality with such words as those she speaks concerning the news of her husband's intended assassination:

'They be so good that I must laugh for ioy,
Before I can begin to tell my tale.'⁵

For a truly rounded poet, sensible of the dignity and delicacy of tragedy, such lines would be as impossible as the undisguised doggerel of Black Will's leave-taking, which comes like a dash of cold water at the most breathless moment of the play:

'We haue our gould; mistris Ales, adew;
Mosbie, farewell, and Michaell, farewell too.'⁶

II. The first and only early edition of *Locrine* dates from 1595. The title-

¹ Jahrbuch der deutsch. Shakespeare-Gesellschaft 39, p. 74 ff.

² Th. Kyd u. sein Kreis, pp. 73-4.

³ Introduction to Kyd's Works, lxxxix.

⁴ I. 186-205; III. v 106-134.

I. 553-4.

⁶ v. i. 261-2.

page reads: '*The Lamentable Tragedie of Locrine, the eldest sonne of King Brutus, discoursing the warres of the Brittaines, and Hunnes, with their discomfiture: The Brittaines victorie with their Accidents, and the death of Albanact. No lesse pleasant then profitable. Newly set foorth, ouerseene and corrected, By W. S. London. Printed by Thomas Creede. 1595.*'

During the previous year, on July 20, 1594, the play had been entered on the Stationers' Register.¹ The first definite suggestion of Shakespearian authorship belongs to 1664, when *Locrine* was reprinted, for the first time since its original appearance, as the last of the seven new plays in the third folio of Shakespeare. The fourth folio, printed in 1685, retained these supplementary dramas, *Locrine* among the number, but, of the seven, only *Pericles* has succeeded in establishing its claim to a place in modern editions. The mythical story on which the tragedy of *Locrine* is founded was current at the end of the sixteenth century in several forms. Herr Theodor Erbe, who has written a dissertation² on the subject, believes the dramatist to have followed Geoffrey of Monmouth's Chronicle in the main, with occasional borrowings from the versions of Caxton and of Holinshed.

The inquiry into the authorship of *Locrine* begins naturally with the consideration of the initials 'W. S.' on the title-page. And here our play connects itself at once with two other apocryphal works, *Thomas Lord Cromwell* and *The Puritan*, the first editions of which, in 1602 and 1607 respectively, bear the identical words, 'by W. S.' Now it is pretty clear, from the evidence of style, spirit, and method alike, that these three dramas are not by the same author—whether the William Smith suggested by Malone and Knight, or another—and we do not know of any two or three competent dramatists of the time, leaving Shakespeare out of the question, each of whom had the initials 'W. S.' In 1611, moreover, the early play of *The Troublesome Reign of King John* was republished with the new claim: 'Written by W. Sh.', where it seems certain that a dishonest but cautious bookseller meant the public to construe 'W. Sh.' as 'William Shakespeare'. From all this we may conclude with tolerable assurance: First, that the initials 'W. S.' on the title-pages of *Locrine*, *Cromwell*, and *The Puritan*, may well stand for 'William Shakespeare'.³ Second, that such doubtful and suspicious evidence, though it apparently impressed the editors of the third folio, has almost no weight in deciding the question of Shakespeare's authorship of the plays under discussion.

Tieck accepts *Locrine* as the earliest of Shakespeare's dramatic works, and Schlegel registers his belief that this tragedy and *Titus Andronicus* must stand or fall together on their claim to authenticity. Few succeeding critics have been

¹ 'xx^o die Julij. Thomas Creede, Entred for his Copie vnder th(e h)andes of the Wardens, The lamentable Tragedie of Locrine, the eldest sonne of Kinge Brutus. discoursing the warres of the Brittans, &c. . . vjd.'

² *Die Locrinesage und die Quellen des Pseudo-Shakespeareschen Locrine*. Halle a. S. 1904.

³ In the case of *Locrine*, however, the probability of a reference to Shakespeare is much less than in the case of the other two later plays, both by reason of the former's early date and because of the wording of the title-page. Cf. p. xx.

willing to admit the possibility of Shakespeare's concern in the serious part of *Locrine*, which is indeed composed in the most exaggerated manner of the 'university wits'. The comic scenes, however, which centre around the figure of Strumbo, are more successful and more in the early style of Shakespeare. Accordingly Hopkinson and Ulrici agree in pronouncing the Strumbo scenes Shakespearian, while Hopkinson gives the rest of the play to George Peele. The distinction in tone between the tragic and the comic elements appears, however, to rest, not on duality of authorship, but on the change from a very affected type of poetry and a mythical age to prose and what is, to all intents and purposes, contemporary life. The dove-tailing of comedy and tragedy in such scenes as II, iii, iv, v, and IV, ii, is much too perfect to be explained on any hypothesis of double authorship; and these four scenes, unquestionably the work of a single man, represent all the peculiarities of the play, which I feel a large degree of confidence in attributing as a whole to the pen of Robert Greene. Before, however, entering specifically upon the vexed, and vexing, problem of the author's identity, it will be well to summarize the more obvious general features of the style.

Locrine is possibly as characteristic an example as can be found of the type of drama developed by Greene and Peele. The usual faults of their school are in this play exaggerated into vices, but the special lyric beauty, the imaginative fervour, and the delicate feeling for natural loveliness are equally prominent; and both in its defects and its merits *Locrine* manifests a close consanguinity with the acknowledged plays of the 'university wits'. No reader can well fail to note the infinity of classical allusion,¹ the craze for mouth-filling but meaningless adjectival epithets,² the ranting bombast of the heroic figures,³ the wearisome lyrical repetition of high-sounding words and phrases,⁴ or the childish delight in such freaks of verbiage as 'agnominated' and 'contentation'. No less striking, however, and no less indicative of its authorship are the poetic beauties of *Locrine*, detached, for the most part, and scattered like living springs in the dreary waste of rhetoric and affectation. There are few touches of purer pastoral feeling even in *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*, or in *The Arraignment of Paris*, than Estrild's description of England:

The aerie hills enclod with shadie groues,
The groues replenisht with sweet chirping birds,
The birds resounding heauenly melodie, &c.⁵

or the allusion to

the fields of martiall *Cambria*,
Close by the boystrous *Iscans* siluer streames,
Where lightfoote faires skip from banke to banke.⁶

The enthusiasm for external life and action, bound up so closely with the reflective tendencies of the 'university wits', is worthily expressed in Hubba's martial speech,⁷ and in the splendid outburst of national feeling in IV. i. 28-37.

¹ e.g. I. i. 235-56.

² e.g. Humber's raving in III. 6.

³ II. i. 36 ff.

⁴ III. i. 71-3.

⁵ Ibid. and III. i. 43-4.

⁶ e.g. II. i. 102-5.

⁷ III. ii. 36 ff.

Malone has put it on record as his 'creed', that this play 'was written by Christopher Marlowe, whose style it appears to me to resemble more than that of any other known dramatick author of that age'. It is to be hoped that Mr. Malone's creed contained other saving articles; else his hopes of salvation must be reckoned to be small, for with the exception of a few of the generic qualities just mentioned, which Marlowe also shared, there is not a jot of resemblance between the two styles. Indeed, it is perhaps a degree less possible to imagine Marlowe the author of the flatter and feebler parts of *Lochrine* than to believe them the output of the youthful Shakespeare himself.

The various-minded Mr. Fleay has several times decided upon Peele¹ as the author of our play, and Hopkinson is of the same opinion as regards the tragic portion of the piece. Peele's authorship—at least in the present state of our knowledge of that poet—is no such self-evident impossibility as that of Shakespeare or Marlowe, but it seems for many reasons improbable. The importance, character, and success of the comic element,² the excessive richness of mythological allusion—far greater than in any play of Peele's and differently employed, the extreme rarity of run-on lines, and the general appearance of over-decoration all indicate that the author of *Lochrine* is not Peele, and that he is Peele's more humorous, but weaker and more florid companion, Robert Greene.

In the discussion of Greene's special claims to the play of *Lochrine* is involved the consideration of another play closely and curiously linked to ours—the first part,³ that is, of *The Tragical raigne of Selimus, sometime Emperour of the Turkes*, published anonymously in 1594 by the same Thomas Creede who brought out *Lochrine*, *Alphonsus*, *The Looking Glass*, and *James IV.* Mr. P. A. Daniel first called attention to the connexion between *Selimus* and *Lochrine*, a connexion so close as to prove indisputably either common authorship or conscious plagiarism. The one comic passage in *Selimus* (ll. 1873 ff.) is appropriated bodily from *Lochrine*, iv. ii, and the two works have more identical or similar lines than could easily be enumerated; sometimes considerable passages in one play are repeated in the other with the change of only a word or two.⁴ For an imposing but by no means exhaustive array of parallel passages and a discussion of the relationship of the two dramas, the reader may be referred to Mr. Churton Collins's Introduction to Greene's Works.⁵ Mr. Charles Crawford has further shown that some of the more elaborate parallel passages in *Lochrine* and *Selimus* are imitations of lines

¹ In his *History of the Stage* he gives the play wholly to Peele; in the *Shakspeare Manual* (286) he assigns it to Charles Tilney, but believes that it was revised by Peele. There is nothing to support either theory. The two parallels from Peele's *Farewell to Norris and Drake*, 1589, noted by Dyce and alluded to impressively by Fleay are these: 'To arms, to arms, to honourable arms,' and 'Take helm and targe'! Tilney's only claim to this or any other play rests upon an unauthenticated statement of Collier's that the former is mentioned as the author in a manuscript note written in a copy of the first quarto. Cf. Tilney in *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² Cf. p. xxiii.

³ No second part exists.

⁴ e.g. *Lochrine* II. v. 7-11, and *Selimus*, 2434-8 (Temple edition).

⁵ Oxford, 1905, pp. 64-7.

in Spenser's *Ruins of Rome*, which was probably known in MS. some years before its publication in 1591.

Dr. Grosart has claimed *Selimus* for Greene, and on the whole with a greater show of probability than Mr. Collins is willing to allow. The fact that two selections¹ from this drama are quoted in *England's Parnassus*, 1600, over the name of R. Greene ought surely to be given very considerable weight when there is no contradictory external evidence and when the internal evidence must be agreed to point in the same direction. In the variety and amount of mythological reference, in general dramatic structure, in the number and kind of borrowings from Spenser, Marlowe, and Greene himself, there is little doubt that *Selimus* bears more likeness to *Orlando Furioso* and *Alphonsus, King of Arragon* than to any work of any other contemporary writer. As for Mr. Crawford's fine-spun theory that *Selimus*, with its multiplex heroes, disjointed plot, frequent rhyme, and total absence of any strikingly original situation or poetry, is the production of Christopher Marlowe, it is assuredly not unjust to pronounce the suggestion worthy of keeping company in the limbo of rash and unbalanced criticism with Mr. Simpson's arguments in defence of Shakespeare's authorship of *Fair Em*, and with that egregious sentence of Schlegel which declares that *Cromwell* and *Oldcastle* deserve to be classed among his best and maturest works.

Robert Greene's early dramatic method is marked by two features, which especially distinguish *Locrine*. The first is his constant borrowing of lines and phrases from other poets and from himself; the second is his tendency to beautify himself with borrowed feathers in greater matters—to copy the plot and general structure of the most fashionable work of the hour. How continually in *Locrine* we find Greene's favourite epithets, phrases, and classical divinities forcing themselves uncalled for into the lines will not escape the notice of any one who will, for example, make a cursory catalogue, as I have done, of the mythological references in *Locrine* and compare it with *Selimus*, *Alphonsus*, *Orlando*, and the *Looking Glass*.

Crawford has pointed out—truly, I think—that *Locrine* is less influenced by Marlowe than *Selimus*, and that the former play, unlike the latter, does not borrow from the *Faery Queene*. I differ from Mr. Daniel in regarding *Locrine* as the earlier play, and I believe it to have been written before Greene fell under the spell of *Tamburlaine* and while he was taking as his models for tragedy the species of drama represented by *Gorboduc* and *The Misfortunes of Arthur*. The choice of subject, the dumb shows, and the presence of lyrical speeches arranged in stanzas,² all mark *Locrine* as belonging to this class as surely as *Alphonsus* belongs to the class of *Tamburlaine*. The true, if not very powerful or original poetic gifts of Greene raise *Locrine*, however, as far above the barely respectable work of Norton and Sackville and the unmitigated rubbish of Hughes as all Greene's early plays are themselves transcended by the first achievement of the mighty Marlowe.

Selimus I would take as marking the transition from *Locrine* to *Alphonsus*.

¹ 503-9, 853-7.

² The last feature is found also, more rarely, in *Selimus*.

The trumpet blast of *Tamburlaine* reverberates through many of its speeches, but the cramping walls of Senecan dramaturgy are tottering rather than fallen. Lyrical stanzas and couplets occur here and there, and the action goes a-straying, as in *Locrine*, from one principal character to another. The sequence I have indicated is borne out by examination of the style, which is most artificial and hyper-classical in *Locrine* and grows very gradually but steadily less so in *Selimus*, *Orlando Furioso*, and *Alphonsus*, till the culmination is reached in the excellent simplicity of *James IV*.

Locrine is a tragedy of the type of about 1585; that it could have been composed—with all its dumb show machinery and so forth—immediately before 1595 is practically impossible. Yet the reference in the epilogue to the thirty-eighth year of Elizabeth's reign points clearly to 1595-6, and these lines must therefore be considerably later than the play as a whole. There is, indeed, no shadow of a reason why we should not accept as absolute truth the statement of the title-page that the drama was in 1595 'newly set foorth, ouerseene, and corrected by W. S.' This W. S. may have been William Shakespeare or William Smith, or any one else possessed of these initials. His identity will probably never be known, and there is no question connected with *Locrine* which is less worth the settling, for the whole character of the play shows that, but for the addition of the twelve-line epilogue,¹ the activities of W. S. can hardly have extended beyond the crossing of an occasional 't' or the dotting of an 'i'.

III. *Edward III*, in some ways the most extraordinary of all the doubtful plays, is first heard of in the Stationers' Register for Dec. 1, 1595²; three other entries are recorded between this date and Feb. 23, 1625. The earliest edition (Q. 1) has the following title-page: '*The Raigne of King Edward the third: As it hath bin sundrie times plaied about the Citie of London. London, Printed for Cuthbert Burby. 1596.*' The play must have been temporarily popular, for in 1599 there appeared a second quarto (Q. 2), printed likewise for Cuthbert Burby. From this time, however, *Edward III* seems to have been very largely neglected during more than a century and a half, till it was permanently rescued from oblivion by the scholarly editing of Capell in 1760.

Scene 2 of the first act, and the second act of *Edward III* are based in part on Holinshed's Chronicle of Scotland and in part on a novel by Bandello, as translated in Painter's Palace of Pleasure.³ The only source of the rest of the drama, according to Warnke and Proescholdt, is Holinshed's Chronicle of England; but Knight may be correct in recognizing through the last three acts the influence of Froissart as well. The Villiers-Salisbury episode⁴ is not found either in Holinshed or Froissart and is of uncertain derivation. The two editions of the play were anonymous; however, in 'An exact and perfect Catalogue of all

¹ v. iv. 261-72.

² 'primo die decembris (1595). Cuthbert Burby Entred for his copie vnder the handes of the warden A booke Intituled Edward the Third and the Blacke Prince their warres with kinge John of Fraunce . . . vjd.'

³ Novel XLVI.

⁴ iv. i. 19-43; iii. 1-56; v. 56-126.

Plays that are Printed', prefixed to T. G(off)'s *Careless Shepherdess*, 1654, the three plays of *Edward II*, *Edward III*, and *Edward IV*, are assigned to Shakespeare. Such an attribution is uncritical and untrustworthy on the face of it and appears to have been ignored in the case of *Edward III*, as, of course, it was in the case of the other two histories, till Capell's introduction to our play in his volume of 'Prolusions, or Select Pieces of Ancient Poetry,'¹ put the arguments for its authenticity boldly and persuasively before the popular mind.

The first two acts of *Edward III* concern themselves mainly with a love intrigue. The beginning of the third act brings with it a complete change of plot and a considerable diminution in dramatic force. Since Capell, only Tieck, Collier, Teetgen, and Hopkinson—untrustworthy critics all—have assigned the entire play to Shakespeare; but the number of those who regard the main portion of the first episode as Shakespearian, includes at least three high authorities: Tennyson, Ward, and Fleay, while Halliwell-Phillips, Tyrrell, and Freiherr von Vincke recognize the authenticity of these scenes as at least possible. In the criticism of *Edward III*, however, as in that of *Arden of Feversham*, the trend of modern opinion inclines strongly to the negative side. The long list of those who deny the presence in the play of more than, conceivably, a few brief insertions by Shakespeare, includes: Mr. Swinburne, Dr. Furnivall, Saintsbury, Knight, Symonds, G. C. Moore Smith, Ulrici, Delius, Warnke and Proescholdt, H. von Friesen, and Liebau.

It will doubtless be generally agreed by readers of the play that the last acts, dealing with the French wars, though full of fine dramatic poetry, are, as a whole, not by Shakespeare; and there seems good reason to believe that the earlier 'countess scenes', so much more Shakespearian at first sight, are in reality by the same author as the rest of the drama. Whether the scenes in which the countess appears, and possibly other passages, were later revised by a second hand, Shakespeare's or another's, is a question that must be left open.

The supporters of the authenticity of the love episode explain it usually as a relatively late addition, written by Shakespeare to eke out the insufficiently long military scenes; at all events, it is certain that, if there is any difference in date of composition, the military scenes represent the original dramatic conception, to which the love episode is subsequent. But there are two passages in Act III, which belong apparently to the very first draft and which refer directly to the love episode. In the third scene² King John says:

'For whats this Edward but a belly god,
A tender and lasciuious wantonnes,
That *thother daie* was almost dead for loue?

And in Scene 5,³ King Edward likewise reminds the audience of the events of the first two acts:

'Now, Iohn of Fraunce, I hope,
Thou knowest King Edward for no wantonesse
No loue sicke cockney.'

¹ 1760.² ll. 155-7.³ ll. 100-2.

The author of Act III, must, therefore, have had the contents of Acts I and II distinctly before his mind.

A more definite indication of singleness of authorship is the fact that, wherever in the last three acts the necessity of portraying actual events disappears, there we find, as in iv. iii, a return to the tone and style of the earlier unhistoric scenes. Indeed, it is not too much to assert that the true lover and student of this play will be likely to turn with most pleasure not to the brilliant intrigue scenes of the first acts, which have, I think, a rather cloying sweetness, but to the freshness and perfect sincerity of some of the later passages, uneven and sometimes uncouth though they are. There is a verve and exhilaration about the scene in which the Black Prince receives his arms¹ and that² in which he returns to his father triumphant from the shadow of death, or in the brief eighth scene of Act IV, where Audley passes wounded and dying across the stage, which are nowhere to be found in the countess episode. The latter is certainly a much finer entity than any other division of the play, but there is probably not a passage in it which does more credit to the poetic ability of the author than this single line of Audley's :³

‘Good friends, conuey me to the princely Edward,
That in the crimson brauerie of my bloud
I may become him with saluting him.’

or the four spoken by the second citizen of Calais :⁴

‘The Sun, dread Lord, that in the western fall
Beholds vs now low brought through miserie,
Did in the Orient purple of the morne
Salute our comming forth, when we were knowne.’

Mr. Symonds has remarked that, in case *Edward III* was written as a whole by some imitator of Shakespeare's Marlowesque manner, the unknown author would naturally have succeeded better in his treatment of the love story which Bandello had shaped ready to his hand, than when he came in the later acts to deal with the refractory material of actual history. The nature of the play, from beginning to end, lends special weight to this criticism ; throughout we recognize the writer's love of noble situations and his sympathy with high-minded characters, but the continual inferiority of his hand to his heart is equally obvious. The inability to grasp strongly the realities of life produces in the historical scenes a woodenness and restraint, which mark these portions of the play as distinctly un-Shakespearian, despite several bursts of magnificent poetry. In the greater part of the first two acts, however, and occasionally elsewhere, the demands of realistic sanity are less obvious, and the author has been able to rise to a very great height by his fine poetic sense and delicacy of feeling.

Yet the central fault is present here as elsewhere. Notwithstanding their figurative richness of style, their melody and forcefulness of expression, and their real likeness in many outward features to Shakespeare, the scenes between the countess and the king will hardly bear frequent re-reading. Tried by the test

¹ III. iii.

² III. v.

³ IV. viii. 7.

⁴ v. 27-30.

of what they say, not how they say it, these passages sound hollow and insincere ; the sophistry of nearly all the arguments becomes more objectionable as one knows the play better, as one comes to feel—once the bewildering effect of the declamation has abated—how much the characters guide their actions by the dictates of complex academic reasoning and how little by the inner voice of nature.

Yet after declaring Shakespeare utterly incapable, at the mature period presumed by the artistic finish of *Edward III*, of the quibbling mawkishness of Warwick and the Countess, the conscientious critic will pause long before he undertakes to name the actual author—one of the truest poets and most ardent patriots, certainly, of his generation.

I should like to see this fine though very imperfect play recognized as the crown and conclusion of the work of George Peele, a poet who has perhaps received scant justice in recent times, but who in the fire and melody of his poetry rises high above all but the two greatest of his contemporaries. *David and Bethsabe* is only just inferior in its best parts to *Edward III* and the two works bear a very marked resemblance in all essential particulars. In both there is the basal lack of unity arising from the juxtaposition of a love episode conceived in a vein of rare lyrical beauty and a military-political plot for which the author's hand shows itself less well adapted. Both are characterized by nearly total abstinence from the mythological jargon of Greene, by the peculiar liquid beauty of Peele's best poetry, and by a verse movement which is almost identical.¹

As in *David and Bethsabe* and *The Battle of Alcazar*, so in *Edward III*, there is not a vestige of comedy—a fact which would surprise us in the work of almost any writer of the time, except two. For it is a curious truth that Peele, with his immense reputation as a jester and social buffoon, has left us less comedy, and that little of a feeblor sort, than any of his contemporaries save Christopher Marlowe. For the type of ardent but rather indiscriminating patriotism which pervades *Edward III* any number of parallels will be found in *The Arraignment of Paris*, *Edward I*, and *The Battle of Alcazar*.

It must be conceded that *Edward III* is a finer production than any with which Peele is at present accredited. Yet I believe that the majority of persons who will compare the first act of *David and Bethsabe* with the first two acts of *Edward III*, will recognize not only that the general characteristics—merits and defects—are the same, but furthermore that there is nothing in the latter play which was not potentially within the grasp of the poet who could write the former. A few years more of practice, a free hand,² and the change from the dry threshed husks of Biblical narrative to the full and stimulating garners of native history might have performed a far greater transfiguration.

IV. *Mucedorus* appears first in an edition of 1598, with the title-page :

¹ The proportion of run-on lines in *David and Bethsabe* is about one in five ; in *Edward III* it is slightly less than one in six. There is absolutely no appreciable difference in this regard—though Mr. Fleay rather insinuates that there is—between the three King-Countess scenes and the rest of *Edward III*.

² At least in the non-historical scenes.

'*A Most pleasant Comedie of Mucedorus the kings sonne of Valentia and Amadine the kings daughter of Arragon, with the merie conceites of Mouse. Newly set foorth as it hath bin sundrie times plaide in the honorable Cittie of London. Very delectable and full of mirth. London. Printed for William Jones, dwelling at Holborne conduit, at the signe of the Gunne. 1598.*' There is no mention of the play in the extant Stationers' Registers till September 17, 1618.¹

Of all pre-Restoration plays *Mucedorus* passed through the greatest number of early editions. Seventeen have been enumerated by Mr. W. W. Greg,² the dates in order of publication being as follows: 1598 (Q. 1), 1606 (Q. 2), 1610 (Q. 3), 1611 (Q. 4), 1613 (Q. 5), 1615 (Q. 6), 1618 (Q. 7), 1619 (Q. 8), 1621 (Q. 9), 1626 (Q. 10), 1631 (Q. 11), 1634 (Q. 12), 1639 (Q. 13), 1663 (Q. 14), 1668 (Q. 15), an undated edition (Q. 16), and an edition of which the only extant copy³ lacks the title-page (Q. 17). Collier has mentioned yet another quarto, dated 1609, upon which he professed to base his text of the play, but it is highly probable that this edition, known to nobody but Collier, is entirely imaginary. Nine of the existing quartos are to be found in the British Museum; ⁴ to these the Bodleian,⁵ Trinity College, Cambridge,⁶ and the Dyce Collection⁷ add two others each. Q. 7 and Q. 9, neither of which is important, are the only ones not easily accessible, the former being in Mr. Huth's private library, the latter in the Municipal Library of Dantzig. Collation of all the British Museum quartos and careful consideration of the rest show that it is possible to divide the early texts of *Mucedorus* into the following three groups:—

Group A, including only Q. 1 and Q. 2, is characterized by the absence of certain scenes and passages found in all the others.

Group B embraces Q. 3-6; all the editions of this group as well as Q. 1 and Q. 2 were published by William Jones.

Group C includes Q. 7-17; the first seven of these editions (Q. 7-13) were published by John Wright, Q. 14-16, and probably Q. 17, by Francis Coles. In this group the text has been superficially edited, the spelling modernized to some extent, and grammatical irregularities normalized. The divergences within the various groups appear quite unintentional and are confined as a rule to mere misprints and variant spellings.

The title-page of Q. 3 runs: '*A Most pleasant Comedie of Mucedorus . . . Amplified with new additions, as it was acted before the king's Maiestie at White-hall on Shroue-*

¹ This notice is of interest as explaining the change of publisher after the sixth edition (1615). It runs as follows: '17 Septembris 1618. John Wright Assigned ouer vnto him by Mistris Sara Jones widowe late wife of william Jones Deceased and by Direction from Master warden Adames by a note vnder his hand theis two bookes following xijd. -

viz^t.

The schoole of good manners

The Comedy Called Mucedorus.'

² *Jahrbuch* XL., 95 ff.

³ In Library of Trin. Coll., Camb.

⁵ Q. 4, Q. 14.

⁶ Q. 13, Q. 17.

⁴ Q. q. 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16.

⁷ Q. 2, Q. 10.

Sunday night. By his Highnes Seruants usually playing at the Globe. Very delectable, and full of conceited Mirth...' The title-pages of the subsequent quartos are as nearly as possible the same. Most of the critical interest attaching to *Mucedorus* concerns the 'new additions' found in the texts of groups B and C and the definite statement in these editions that the play was acted by the King's men 'usually playing at the Globe'. The additions are certainly not by the original author and are superior to the rest of the comedy; they include the Prologue, Scenes 1 and 2 of the first Act, Scene 1 of the fourth Act, a revision and amplification of Act V, Scene 2, from line 91, and of the Epilogue from line 14.

The source of the comedy has not been discovered; Schlegel, who had not read the play, conjectured wrongly that it was founded on the story of Valentine and Orson,¹ the subject of a Spanish drama by Lope de Vega. Among the Roxburghe Ballads² there is a poem, which, though hardly older in its present form than the seventeenth century, differs from our play in several particulars and may be based in part on an earlier version of the story. The heading of the ballad reads: 'The wandering Prince and Princess or Musidorus and Amadine, both of Royal Progeny, who being unfortunately seperated by means of their parents disagreeing; as fortunately met in a Desert, while both resolved never to cease from searching, till they had found out each other.

In shady Deserts there was none
but Beasts to hear these Lovers moan,
There these faithful Lovers met,
Their marriage day was quickly set.

Tune, *Young Phaon*.'

Besides the conclusive testimony of the large number of early editions and the circulation of a ballad on the subject, we have several other evidences of the special popularity of *Mucedorus* with vulgar audiences in the seventeenth century. The Citizen's Wife in *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* says³ of an apprentice: 'Nay, gentlemen, he hath played before, my husband says, *Mucedorus*, before the wardens of our company.' To the same effect is the following interesting record of the comedy's vogue in the provinces during the Commonwealth: 'The comedy of *Mucedorus* was revived by some strollers in 1652, and privately exhibited in the villages of Moore, Standlake, Southleigh and Cumner in Oxfordshire, till in the following February, they ventured to represent it publicly at Witney. The use of the Town-hall being denied them, they were obliged to perform it at the White-hart inn, where a numerous audience assembled on the evening of the 3d.'⁴ On this occasion several persons were killed by the giving way of the floor, and the town lecturer Rowe profited by the catastrophe to deliver a series of sermons against theatrical performances.

The only external evidence which in any degree sanctions the attribution of *Mucedorus* to Shakespeare consists in the statement on the title-pages of

¹ A play with this title, by Hathway and Munday, is mentioned by Henslowe under date of July 19, 1597.

² Vol. ii, pp. 490-1.

³ Induction.

⁴ Quoted from a clipping pasted in the British Museum copy of Q. 8.

1610 and after, that the play belonged to the repertoire of the Globe Company, and the fact of its inclusion, with *Fair Em* and *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*, in the famous 'Shakespeare' volume prepared for Charles the Second's library. Tieck alone has ascribed the whole of *Mucedorus* to Shakespeare, and modern criticism will no longer tolerate so absurd an attribution. There can be little doubt that the comedy in its original form was the work of some member of the school of 'university wits'. Malone attempted, on the most dubious of external testimony, to establish Greene's authorship, and Mr. Hopkinson holds the same view, which, however, has recently been discredited by Mr. Churton Collins;¹ Mr. Fleay prefers to give to Lodge such credit as the composition of these crude early scenes carries with it, while H. von Friesen supposes Peele to have written them. The spirit of the school is everywhere visible, especially so, perhaps, in such a pastoral bit as iv. 3, but there is little to identify the individual poet. If he be one of the three or four famous members of the group, then much of the play must represent hasty or slovenly work, but it is more likely that these old scenes were written by an obscure and only moderately gifted disciple.

The additional scenes, written apparently between the publication of the second edition in 1606 and the third in 1610, are of greater poetic merit than the rest of the comedy and somewhat more in Shakespeare's manner. It is agreed that they fall far short of what one would expect from Shakespeare at this period; yet Collier, Hopkinson, and Simpson accept them, with reservations, as hurried and careless patch-work, done by the master in his capacity of theatre manager. Against this, and in support of the negative position occupied by Fleay, Ward, Tyrrell, Knight, Warnke and Proescholdt, and Soffé, it may be mentioned:—

First. That, though the single authorship of the additions is pretty evident, only one of the new scenes (iv. 1) shows anything which can possibly be regarded as the imperfect work of genius, while the others display merely workmanlike mediocrity.

Second. That all the new scenes indicate the very reverse of haste and carelessness; their great fault is that they impress the reader as laboured.

Third. That the style, even in the finest scene of all, is sometimes so strained and artificial as not conceivably to be Shakespeare's in 1606–10. Take, for instance, this couplet in iv. i.²:—

'No, no; till Mucedorus I shall see againe,
All ioy is comfortlesse, all pleasure paine.'

Mr. Fleay suggests Wilkins as the author of the additions, but the matter is not likely soon to be settled. So much seems certain: that the additions to *Mucedorus* were written by a person of true, but neither great nor mature poetic gifts who stood somewhat under the influence of Shakespeare.

V. Two quarto editions of the *First Part of Sir John Oldcastle* were published in 1600. One, which we may call Q. 1, bears the title: '*The first part Of the true*

¹ Introduction to Greene's Works, pp. 60–1.

² ll. 15–16.

and honorable historie, of the life of Sir John Old-castle, the good Lord Cobham. As it hath been lately acted by the right honorable the Earle of Nottingham Lord high Admirall of England his seruants. London. Printed by V. S. for Thomas Pavier, and are to be solde at his shop at the signe of the Catte and Parrots neere the Exchange. 1600.' The other quarto (Q. 2) inserts the words 'Written by William Shakespeare' and replaces the full particulars as to the publisher's name and address by the non-committal sentence: 'London printed for T. P. 1600.' This dishonest and defective text has been followed by the editors of the third and fourth Shakespeare folios (F. 1, F. 2) and by all modern publishers.¹ There can be no doubt, though, that the anonymous quarto (Q. 1) is infinitely superior; it contains many fine passages which Q. 2 has either omitted entirely or hopelessly corrupted. The play was registered by Pavier, August 11, 1600.²

Sir John Oldcastle has many pleasant and a few really good scenes, but there is perhaps no member of the pseudo-Shakespearian group more totally destitute of a single passage which might imaginably have been written by Shakespeare. Only Tieck and Schlegel have championed its genuineness; and the question of authorship has now been settled with a most agreeable definiteness by the unearthing of the following entries in Henslowe's Diary: ³ 'This 16 of october <15>99. Receved by me, Thomas Downton, of phillip Henslow, to pay Mr. Monday, Mr. Drayton, and Mr. Wilson and Hathway, for the first pte of the lyfe of Sr. Jhon Ouldcasstell and in earnest of the second pte., for the use of the compayny, ten pound, I say receved . . . 10^{li}.'

'Receved of Mr. Hinchloe, for Mr. Mundaye and the Reste of the poets, at the playnge of Sr. John Oldcastell, the ferste tyme. As a gefte . . . x^s.'

From other entries it appears that the *Second Part of Sir John Oldcastle*, now lost, was written by Drayton alone.

The first part of *Oldcastle* was beyond question composed for the Lord Admiral's Company as a reply to the successful Falstaff plays ⁴ which the Lord Chamberlain's Servants had been acting. The character of Falstaff, originally called Oldcastle, is certainly aimed at in the slur of the prologue: ⁵

'It is no pampred glutton we present,
Nor aged Councillor to youthfull sinne.'

The gambling scene between the disguised king and Sir John of Wrotham suggests *Henry V*, IV, i; while the reference to the thieving exploits of the king's youth

¹ It may well be that Q. 2 is the earlier of the two quartos and that it was hastily printed from a shorthand version several months before Pavier secured the accurate version from which he published Q. 1. It is noteworthy that both editions have the curious transposition of Scenes 2-8 of the last act.

² '11 Augusti. Thomas pavier Entred for his copies vnder the handes of master Vicars and the wardens. These iij copies, viz.

The first parte of the history of the life of Sir John Oldecastell lord Cobham.

Item the second and last parte of the history of Sir John Oldecastell lord Cobham with his martyrdom.

Item ye history of the life and Deathe of Captaine Thomas Stucley . . .'

³ Edition of 1845, p. 158.

⁴ The two parts of *Henry IV*, 1597-8; *Henry V*, 1599.

⁵ II, 6, 7.

is a clear allusion to the first part of *Henry IV*, and the two mentions¹ of Falstaff by name are reminiscences of the same play:

'*King*. . . . Where the diuel are all my old theeues, that were wont to keepe this walke ? Falstaffe, the villaine, is so fat, he cannot get on 's horse, but me thinkes Poines and Peto should be stirring here abouts ;'

and

'*sir Iohn*. . . . Because he <i.e. the King> once robde me before I fell to the trade my selfe ; when that foule villainous guts, that led him to all that rogerie, was in's company there, that Falstaffe.'

VI. *Thomas Lord Cromwell* was entered on the Stationers' Register by William Cotton, Aug. 11, 1602.² In the same year appeared the first edition (Q. 1) with the title : '*The True Chronicle Historie of the whole life and death of Thomas Lord Cromwell. As it hath beene sundrie times publikely Acted by the Right Honorable the Lord Chamberlaine his Seruants. Written by W. S. Imprinted at London for William Iones, and are to be solde at his house neere Holburne conduit, at the signe of the Gunne. 1602.*'

A second quarto (Q. 2) was printed by Thomas Snodham in 1613. The only important variation from Q. 1 on the title-page of this edition consists in the necessary change of the name of Shakespeare's company : 'As it hath beene sundry times publikely Acted by the King's Maiesties Seruants. Written by W. S.' The play was included in the third and fourth Shakespeare folios (F. 1, F. 2), and was reprinted by Rowe, Pope, and again separately by R. Walker in 1734, as 'A Tragedy. By Shakespear.' Q. 2, the later quarto, was, as usual, followed by the editors of the folios, as well as by Malone, who was not acquainted with Q. 1, and has thus served as basis for all modern texts. Q. 1 is certainly to be preferred ; the variations of Q. 2 are for the most part due merely to the conventionalizing of syntax and spelling, but there are several cases where the original reading has been falsified by the insertion or substitution of new words. The later editions have no critical importance.

Thomas Lord Cromwell exceeds *Sir John Oldcastle* in all the particular defects of that defective though interesting play, and it has fewer merits. The scenes of *Cromwell* are disconnected and undramatic to such a degree that the real plot cannot be said to begin before the close of the third act, and there is hardly a passage in the work, with the exception of III. iii, which excites special attention. Tieck and Schlegel, to their lasting discredit, have defended the genuineness of this play, and Ulrici also is inclined, against his better judgement, to accept it as a very early work of Shakespeare, anterior to 1592. Hopkinson assigns the main part of the performance to Greene,³ but he—alone of English critics—would like

¹ III. iv. 61-5, 102-5.

² '11^o Augustj <1602>. William Cotton Entred for his Copie vnder th(e h)andes of master Jackson and master waterson warden A booke called " the lyfe and Deathe of the Lord Cromwell " as yt was lately Acted by the Lord Chamberleyn his ser-vantes, vjd.'

³ It is possibly worth remarking—though not as an indication of Greene's authorship, than which few things are more unlikely—that the episode of Seely and his cow

to establish Shakespeare's connexion as reviser of the greater part of the comic scenes and of III. ii and iii; IV. i and v; and v.

Other writers have suggested the authorship of Wentworth Smith, William Sly, Heywood, and Drayton respectively, but there is strong reason against ascribing the play to any of these, while it appears as absolutely certain as so undemonstrable a matter well can be, that William Shakespeare was never concerned with a single line of it. On this point it is pleasant to find the first and the last of the critics of *Cromwell* in complete and emphatic agreement. Malone says: ¹ 'To vindicate Shakespeare from having written a single line of this piece would be a waste of time. The poverty of language, the barrenness of incident and the inartificial conduct of every part of the performance, place it rather perhaps below the compositions of even the second-rate dramatick authors of the age in which it was produced.' And Mr. Swinburne writes in the same strain, but with even greater and rather excessive disapproval: '*Thomas Lord Cromwell* is a piece of such utterly shapeless, spiritless, bodiless, soulless, senseless, helpless, worthless rubbish, that there is no known writer of Shakespeare's age to whom it could be ascribed without the infliction of an unwarrantable insult on that writer's memory.'²

The source of the play is 'The History concerning the Life, Acts, and Death of the famous and worthy Councillor, Lord Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex' in Fox's Book of Martyrs.³ The story of Frescobald, which Fox⁴ has incorporated, comes, as Malone has remarked, from one of Bandello's novels (Part II, No. 27).

VII. *The London Prodigal* appears not to have been entered on the Stationers' Books.⁵ The only early quarto (Q. 1) was published in 1605 with the title: '*The London Prodigall. As it was plaide by the Kings Maiesties seruants. By William Shakespeare, London. Printed by T. C. for Nathaniel Butter, and are to be sold neere S. Austins gate, at the signe of the pyde Bull. 1605.*'

It was next published in the third and fourth Shakespeare folios (F. 1, F. 2), in supplements to Rowe's and to Pope's Shakespeare, and in careless separate reprints by Walker and Tonson.⁶

All these editions ascribe the comedy unreservedly to Shakespeare, and their

may have been inspired by the speeches of Alcon in *A Looking Glasse for London and England* (I. iii, II. ii).

¹ About 1780.

² *A Study of Shakespeare*, 3rd ed., p. 232.

³ Cf. Streit's dissertation on the subject.

⁴ Ed. 1684, II. 429-30.

⁵ I have found the following entry, which is of slight interest, though it is not very probable that the work mentioned had much to do with our play:—'27 Novembris (1598). Nicholas linge Entred for his copie vnder the handes of master Sonibanke and the wardens A booke called The Portraiture of the prodigall sonne. vjd.'

⁶ In 1734 both these publishers brought out worthless editions of *Lochrine*, *Oldcastle*, *The London Prodigal*, and *The Puritan*, while Walker printed *Cromwell* in the same year, and Tonson *A Yorkshire Tragedy* in 1735, in which last year appeared also another reprint of *Oldcastle*, this time with no publisher's name. All these editions claim Shakespeare unreservedly as the author, and they are all quite worthless save as curiosities. Naturally the rival publishers were foes, and Tonson has denounced Walker in unmeasured terms as a pirate.

unanimous testimony gains weight from the facts that *The London Prodigal* was performed by Shakespeare's Company, and that the quarto was printed during the poet's lifetime for Butter, the publisher of *King Lear*. Yet in spite of this evidence and the acceptance of its genuineness by Tieck, Schlegel, and Hopkinson, any theory which supports the play's authenticity may safely be branded as utterly untenable.

The London Prodigal deals entirely with humours and manners. Like *The Puritan*, which it resembles in many points,¹ it depends for its value and effect on the bare plot and the really admirable delineation of the externalities of contemporary life. Shakespeare's catholicity and psychological insight are conspicuously absent, and every principle of his dramatic morality is outraged in the treatment of the prodigal's career. The only supposition on which the attribution can at all be justified is that put forward by Mr. Fleay; namely, that Shakespeare 'plotted' the comedy roughly and then left his vague design to be very imperfectly executed by another.

Mr. Fleay feels certain that *The London Prodigal* and *Thomas Lord Cromwell* are by the same author, and Ulrici ascribes our play to one of the writers of *Sir John Oldcastle*. There seems no reason for either belief. Considered with regard to general spirit, *The London Prodigal*, so full of the intimate details of domestic life, shows as much affinity perhaps to the early works of Dekker or to those of Marston as to the writings of any other well-known dramatist of the period; but in Dekker's case such a theory of authorship would become plausible only if he could be shown to have written for the King's Players just before 1605.² We know that Marston's *Malcontent*, 1607, was acted by the King's Majesty's Servants.

VIII. *The Puritan* was entered at Stationers' Hall on Aug. 6, 1607, by G. Eld,³ and published in quarto (Q.) immediately after. The title-page runs: '*The Puritaine or the Widdow of Watling-streete. Acted by the Children of Paules. Written by W. S. Imprinted at London by G. Eld. 1607.*' The next editions were those of the third and fourth Shakespeare folios (F. 1, F. 2), of Rowe and Pope, and the separate reprints of Walker and Tonson in 1734.⁴

The first definite recognition of this comedy as the work of Shakespeare appears in a bookseller's catalogue of plays⁵ published in 1656. The authority of the folios doubtless established the belief in its authenticity for a time, and we find Gildon in 1702⁶ alluding to it as one of the genuine plays. Since the time

¹ There is good reason for believing that *The London Prodigal* and *The Puritan* are by the same author, or that the same author had a hand in both. See the discussion of the authorship of *The Puritan*, p. xxxi. f. It may be mentioned, though not as a fact of much significance in itself, that there is a close resemblance between Luce's Dutch-English in our play and that of Franchesina in Marston's *Dutch Courtesan*.

² He appears to have written ordinarily for Henslowe's Company.

³ '6 Augusti (1607). George Elde Entred for his copie vnder th(e h)andes of Sir George Bucke knight and the wardens a book called the comedie of "the Puritan Widdow". vjd.' ⁴ See p. xxix, note 6. ⁵ Appended to an edition of *The Old Law*.

⁶ Also listed as one of the genuine plays in Gildon's revision of Langbain's *Lives*

of Malone, however, no English critic seems to have doubted its spuriousness, and of the Germans, perhaps, only Tieck and Schlegel have attempted to enroll it among the works of Shakespeare.

Crude and farcical as *The Puritan* is, it contains some good bourgeois scenes, of a thoroughly un-Shakespearian kind, and has, moreover, the not very usual merit of making the reader laugh with genuine amusement. The spirit of the piece is light-hearted and pleasing, but it has small claim to consideration as serious art.

On the strength of the initials 'W. S.', and for no other reason, *The Puritan* has been attributed to each of the two forgotten dramatists, William and Wentworth Smith. There is slightly better cause possibly, from internal evidence,¹ to accept the theory of Middleton's authorship, favoured by Fleay, Bullen, Hopkinson, and Ward; but this attribution, besides being entirely problematical, is not in accord with the certainty, first pointed out by Dr. Farmer, that the second scene of Act I, with its college cant and reminiscence, is the work of an Oxford man.²

So far, it must be generally allowed, rather less than no progress at all has been made towards the solution of the mystery of this play's authorship; nor can the present editor presume to offer more than a very diffident and tentative answer to the question. Yet there are, I think, several facts, hitherto overlooked, which appear incontrovertible, and which, if they do not justify a final decision, should at least offer to future inquiry that definite *terminus a quo* so conspicuously lacking in the contradictory and unsupported theories previously advanced.

The most obvious of these facts is the extremely close affinity between *The Puritan* and the comedy of *Eastward Hoe*, published just two years earlier (1605) and authoritatively assigned to Chapman, Jonson, and Marston. It will be impossible, perhaps, for any one to read the two plays consecutively without being struck by their likeness in all the more significant and less easily imitated characteristics. The outward details of plot are for the most part different, but in general tone and dramatic method, as well as in a number of mannerisms and personal touches, there is a similarity which approaches near to absolute identity, and which makes it very hard to resist the conviction that the pen of one of the authors of *Eastward Hoe* has been employed in the other play.

It is not unlikely that in the later drama, as in the earlier, we have to do with a case of collaboration. The connexion of *The Puritan* with *Bartholomew Fair* would be explained if we could prove Ben Jonson to have been concerned in the former, but I feel much more sure of the authorship of John Marston, who, like *and Characters of the English Dramatick Poets*, 1698, p. 128, where he adds: 'This was accounted a very diverting Play.'

¹ Reference to Mr. Bullen's valuable Index at the end of his edition of Middleton will show that a great number of passages in *The Puritan* and *The London Prodigal* may be illustrated by similar allusions in Middleton's works, but the parallels are by no means such as to suggest, even remotely and afar off, the idea of common authorship.

² Note, for example, the references to 'quadrangles', 'batteling,' and to the Welsh at Jesus College.

the creator of Pye-board, was a member of Oxford University, and whose special traits—as known from his independent works and partly distinguishable in the tangled mesh of *Eastward Hoe*—are conspicuous in *The Puritan*.

The outlook upon London life in the last two dramas is practically identical. Both are realistic in the coarsest sense, and the types are the same, representing and satirizing, in the one play as in the other, the two hostile classes of court and city. Touchstone and Sir Godfrey, Quicksilver and Master Edmund, have little to distinguish them. Sir Petronel is but a composite of Pye-board and Penny-dub, with the villainy of the first and the inanity of the second. But the greatest resemblance appears in the female characters: Gertrude and Moll, one hopes and believes, can have but one creator. Both are revolting to the finger-tips, twin embodiments of middle-class vulgarity without a shade of difference. With their craving for coaches and ladyship, their loud expressed dread of 'leading apes in hell', and their continued mouthing of obscenities, they illustrate what, in one of the few pregnant phrases to be found in German dissertational literature, has been called ¹ the *schmutzige Spur* which Marston's hand leaves ever behind it.

How often minor allusions in *The Puritan* answer to similar references in *Eastward Hoe* may be seen to a small extent from the notes to the former play. Both presume an encyclopaedic knowledge on the author's part of the Counter prison, with its manners and customs, its denizens and apartments. In both also we find sarcastic references to King James's new-made knights, though the allusions in *The Puritan* ² are somewhat milder than the bold satire of *Eastward Hoe*,³ which assisted in drawing down upon Marston's innocent associates the wrath of the sovereign. The two plays likewise were acted by what was practically the same company, though in the three years that separated them, its name and personnel had suffered alteration.⁴

In both the dramas before us there are frequent parodies and imitations of Shakespeare—humorous often, but not unkindly. In the one we have the changes rung on Pistol's rants about the welkin, and see 'Hamlet, a footeman', 'entering in haste' for the purpose of being asked, 'Hamlet, are you madde?' to the delectation probably of an audience already beginning to addle its brains and lose its temper over this infinitely discussed question. In the other play—that which immediately concerns us—Puttock and Ravenshaw serve Pye-board as Falstaff has been served by their colleagues Fang and Snare; while Corporal Oath is made to sit, instead of Banquo's spectre, as 'the ghost ith white sheete at vpper end a'th Table', and the mighty tragedy of the fifth act of Othello is burlesqued by the imitation of Pye-board, Skirmish, and Oath.

A further characteristic of *The Puritan*, which can hardly fail to impress the

¹ Emil Koeppel: *Quellen Studien zu den Dramen B. Jonson's, J. Marston's u. Beaumont's u. Fletcher's*. Erlangen-Leipzig, 1895.

² I. i. 85 ff; IV. i. 4.

³ *Belles Lettres* ed., IV. i. 213-18.

⁴ *The Children of her Maiesties Reuels*, mentioned on the title-page of *Eastward Hoe*, were replaced in 1606 by *The Children of Paules*, who acted *The Puritan*. Cf. Fleay: *History of the Stage*, pp. 184, 185.

careful reader is the especial bitterness of the author against his Puttocks and Ravenshaws. It is obvious that he looks upon himself as belonging to the poor scholar class, and that, if he does not regard Pye-board as a friend and a brother, he at least resents in a very personal way the insults and indignities to which the latter is subjected by the minions of the law.¹ It seems certain that there must have gone into the vivid portraiture of the poltroonery, brutality, and rapacity of Yeoman Dogson and his confederates, and into the realistic delineation of conditions in the Counter, a very considerable amount of unpleasant personal experience.

The general similarity of *The Puritan* to *Bartholomew Fair* is, of course, obvious, and has been alluded to repeatedly. For the most part the likeness is one of subject rather than treatment, and has no great significance, but in the case of a few details it merits more serious consideration. I cannot but think that the rough sketch of Master Ful-bellie the Minister—who is an excellent feeder and will be horribly drunk upon occasion, though he rails against players mightily because they once brought him drunk upon the stage—stood clear before the memory of Ben Jonson, when he came in 1614 to immortalize the race of Ful-bellies in *Zeal-of-the-Land Busy*.

The name of the central figure in *The Puritan*, George Pye-board, is probably a punning allusion to George Peele,² who was the perpetrator, according to contemporary story, of two of the tricks described in the comedy.³ For any more definite information as to the source and authorship of the play, we must be content to await the discovery of further facts.⁴

IX. *A Yorkshire Tragedy* has from its first appearance been coupled with the name of Shakespeare. On May 2, 1608, it was entered on the Stationers' Register by the notorious Thomas Pavier (the publisher of *Oldcastle*) as a play 'by Wylliam Shakespere'.⁵ A quarto (Q. 1) followed at once, with the title: '*A Yorkshire Tragedy. Not so New as Lamentable and true. Acted by his Maiesties Players at the Globe. Written by W. Shakspeare. At London. Printed by R. B. for Thomas Pavier, and are to bee sold at his shop on Cornhill, neere to the exchange. 1608.*' At the top of the first page of the text is the heading, 'All's One, or, One of the foure Plaies in one, called a York-shire Tragedy: as it was

¹ See, for example, the feeling behind Pye-board's and Puttock's colloquy on the gentlemanliness of scholars, III. iii. 62-72.

² 'Peele. A baker's shovel . . . for thrusting loaves, pies, &c., into the oven and withdrawing them from it.' *New Eng. Dict.*

³ Cf. the second and the eleventh of *The Merrie conceited Jests of George Peele, Gent.*, 1607. Licensed Dec. 14, 1605.

⁴ The Stationers' Register has the following entry under date of Aug. 15, 1597, but it is by no means certain that the works referred to have any bearing upon our play: 'Richard Jones. Entred for his Copie by warraunt from master Warden man ij ballades beinge the firste and Second partes of the wydowe of Watling streete. xijd. Provided that noe Drapers name be set to them.' See *Shirburn Ballads*, I.

⁵ '2^{do} die maij (1608). Master Pavyer Entered for his Copie vnder the handes of master Wilson and master Warden Seton A booke Called A Yorkshire Tragedy written by Wylliam Shakespere. vjd.'

plaid by the Kings Maiesties Plaiers.' Eleven years later a second quarto (Q. 2) was issued with the imprint, 'Written by W. Shakespeare. Printed for T. P. 1619.' The text of this latter edition, though inferior to that of Q. 1 in the few points of difference, was followed by the editors of the third and fourth Shakespeare folios (F. 1, F. 2), Rowe, Pope, and Tonson.

The murders represented in *A Yorkshire Tragedy* occurred in 1605, and are thus recorded in Stow's Chronicle: 'Walter Callverly of Calverly in Yorkshire Esquier, murdred 2 of his young children, stabbed his wife into the bodie with full purpose to have murdred her, and instantly went from his house to have slaine his youngest child at nurse, but was prevented. For which fact at his triall in Yorke hee stood mute and was judged to be prest to death, according to which judgment he was executed at the castell of Yorke the 5th of August <1605>.'

This sensational crime, as might be supposed, attracted no less attention than the earlier murder of Arden. At least three narrative accounts of it were licensed within a couple of months of its occurrence. On June 12 (1605) a pamphlet was entered¹ with the title: 'A booke called Twoo vnnaturall Murthers, the one practised by master Coverley a Yorkshire gent. vppon his wife and happened on his children the 23 of Aprilis 1605 . . .'² In July we have notice of 'A ballad of Lamentable Murther Done in Yorkeshire by a gent. vppon 2 of his owne Children sore woundinge his Wyfe and Nurse,'³ and on August 24 we hear already of 'The Araignment Condempnacon and Execucon of Master Caverly at Yorke in Auguste 1605'.

The authenticity of the *Yorkshire Tragedy* has been allowed by Steevens, Ulrici, Hopkinson, Ward⁴, and others; but the case which has been made out for the negative by Malone, Tyrrell, Knight, Halliwell-Phillips, Symonds, and Swinburne seems much the stronger. The barbaric force of the play and the splendour of some of the prose it contains cannot fail to impress the reader; but the late date (1605-8) is in itself an almost conclusive argument against the possibility of Shakespeare's authorship.

Neither in characterization, nor in plot, nor in metrical peculiarities have the most ardent defenders of the *Yorkshire Tragedy's* authenticity pretended that there is any approach to Shakespeare's manner subsequent to 1605. There are only two really considerable characters in the tragedy, the husband and the wife, and they are represented in a quite un-Shakespearian fashion. Each is

¹ By Nathaniel Butter, 'vnder th(e) handes of master Hartwell and master norton warden.'

² The entry continues: 'The other <murder> practised by Mistress Browne and performed by her servant vpon her husband who in lent last were executed at Berry in Suffolk.' This last crime forms the subject of *A Warning for Fair Women*.

³ 'Tertio Julii <1605>. Thomas Pavyer Entred for his Copie vnder the handes of the wardens A ballad,' &c.

⁴ '24 Augustj <1605>. Nathanael Butter Entred for his Copie vnder the hand of Master ffeild The Araignment,' &c.

⁵ Ward accepts only the best prose passages.

a mere type, not even invested with a name, and quite without the definite personality that Shakespeare in his maturity gives even to subordinate figures. The husband is a brilliant incarnation of wild fury and misdirected remorse. An unreasoning hatred of the world in which he has played so ignoble a rôle, and the ever-present consciousness of personal and family disgrace, drive him to seek momentary relief in brutish violence. The wife typifies the opposite extreme of rather unattractive docility. When this is said, there is little more to say; few or none of the individualizing and humanizing touches that Shakespeare gives his characters are here to be found.

The plot itself, in its nature narrow, sensational, and quite devoid of the morality of all Shakespeare's later work, speaks loud against the possibility of his authorship. To admit all this, as has been done, and explain *A Yorkshire Tragedy* as a sudden excursion by Shakespeare, during the last decade of his life, into a new and essentially lower field of literature, is to join the critical school of the famous friend of Schlegel,¹ who defended the authenticity of *The Puritan* on the ground that it was a successful attempt of Shakespeare to forsake his own style and write for once in that of Ben Jonson.

Finally, the verse of the *Yorkshire Tragedy* has few, if any, of the characteristics of Shakespeare's later verse. The end-stopped lines amount to about 88 per cent., an exceedingly high proportion for late work, while as many as 20 per cent. of the verse lines—two in every ten—are in rhyme. This large number of rhyming lines is not to be found in any but the earliest of the genuine plays, and the rhymes, moreover, are frequently obtained by means of a distortion in the word order, such as Shakespeare was not reduced to even in his apprentice work. The following six lines exemplify the quality of verse to be found in the duller parts of *A Yorkshire Tragedy*:

‘Oh that I might my wishes now attaine,
I should then wish you liuing were againe,
Though I did begge with you, which thing I feard:
Oh, twas the enemy my eyes so bleard.
Oh, would you could pray heauen me to forgiue,
That will vnto my end repentant liue.’²

If Shakespeare's hand is to be traced anywhere in this play, we must look for it solely in the two hundred lines of prose scattered through the first four scenes. Some of this prose is, indeed, very fine, particularly the opening scene between the servants, and the splendid monologue of the husband in Scene 4. The latter passage of twenty-five lines, to the beginning of the feeble verse appendage, is certainly the poetic climax of the play, and perhaps not unworthy of Shakespeare. Yet it may be denied most emphatically that there is, here or elsewhere, anything either in thought or in expression which bears credible witness to the presence of the true Shakespearian touch.

As the heading of the first page of the quartos indicates,³ the brief *Yorkshire Tragedy*, which runs to little over 700 lines, was performed in connexion with

¹ Cf. Schlegel's Lectures, ii. p. 266.

² x. 45-50.

³ Cf. p. xxxiii.

three other dramatic fragments. It is probable that these last were of yet cruder workmanship than our play, and that no effort was made to preserve them from oblivion once they had served their turn upon the stage. Their connexion with *A Yorkshire Tragedy* may have been solely a matter of theatrical convenience, but it is at least possible that some or all of them concerned the earlier history of Calverley, and presented much the same incidents which Wilkins has used in *The Miseries of Enforced Marriage*.¹

X. *The Merry Devil of Edmonton* was entered on the Stationers' Register, Oct. 22, 1607, the author's name being omitted.² A second entry³ on April 5, 1608, referring to a 'booke called the lyfe and deathe of the merry Devill of Edmonton. . . . By T. B.', alludes certainly to a prose work by Tony Brewer, which has only the remotest connexion with our comedy. The latter, however, is again mentioned on the books of the Stationers' Company, and for the first time coupled with Shakespeare's name, in a re-entry by H. Moseley, the book-publisher, on Sept. 9, 1653.

There are six seventeenth-century editions of *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*, all in quarto and all anonymous. The first (Q. 1), dated 1608, is to be found in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge, and bears the following title-page: '*The Merry Devill of Edmonton. As it hath beene sundry times Acted, by his Maiesties Seruants, at the Globe on the bank-side. London, Printed by Henry Ballard for Arthur Iohnson, dwelling at the signe of the white-horse in Paules Churchyard, ouer against the great North doore of Paules, 1608.*' Other quartos followed in 1612 (Q. 2), 1617 (Q. 3), 1626 (Q. 4), 1631 (Q. 5), 1655 (Q. 6).⁴

The text of this play abounds in difficulties, and a few passages seem hopelessly corrupt. The later editions sometimes correct misprints and insert emendations, but they throw little light on the real obscurities and have no independent authority. Altogether, though none of the quartos can perhaps be regarded as decidedly the best intrinsically, Q. 1, which gives as good sense as any, and stands nearest the original, appears to offer the best basis for modern editions, and has here regularly been followed.

The Merry Devil of Edmonton was as popular in the theatres as it appears to have been with the reading public. Reed first quoted⁵ what is probably the

¹ Registered and published, 1607. This drama deals largely with the fate of the 'young mistress' alluded to in the first line of *A Yorkshire Tragedy*; it has a happy ending. Cf. Hazlitt's Dodsley, vol. ix, for the text of the *Miseries*. Its connexion with our play was first pointed out by Mr. P. A. Daniel, *Athenaeum*, Oct. 4, 1879.

² '22 Octobris (1607). Arthur Johnson Entred for his copie vnder th(e) handes of Sir George Buck knight and Th(e) Wardens. A Plaie called the Merry Devill of Edmonton. vjd.'

³ '5^{to} Aprilis (1608). Joseph Hunt, Thomas Archer Entred for their copie. Vnder the hand of master Seton Warden a booke called the lyfe and deathe of the merry Devill of Edmonton with the pleasant pranks of Smugge the Smythe. Sir John. and myne Hoste of the "George" about their stealynge of Venson, by T. B. vjd.'

⁴ Q. 2 is not in any public library, but has been carefully collated by Warnke and Proescholdt from Mr. A. H. Huth's copy. Qq. 3-6 are in the British Museum; Q. 3, Q. 5, also in the Bodleian.

⁵ Dodsley's *Select Plays*, 2nd ed., 1780. Vol. v, p. 247.

first extant mention from the *Blacke Booke* by T. M. (1604): 'Giue him leaue to see the Merry Devil of Edmuntou or A Woman kill'd with kindness.'¹ From this we see that the play had attained a general reputation on the stage at least three years before it was registered for publication. Its vogue must, indeed, soon have become proverbial, for Ben Jonson asks in the Prologue to *The Devil is an Ass*:²

'And show this but the same face you have done
Your dear delight, the Devil of Edmouton.'

In Cunningham's *Revels Accounts*³ there is the following mention of a performance before the King: 'To the said John Heminges upon a Warrant dated 15 May 1618 for presenting before his Ma^{ty} the thirde of May the Merry Divell of Edmouton . . . x^{li}.' It is not unimportant to note, if this extract can be relied on—and there seems no cause to suspect a forgery—that the presentation here referred to took place only two years after Shakespeare's death, and five before the publication of the first folio. If, then, Hemings later failed to include *The Merry Devil of Edmouton* in his edition of Shakespeare's works, it could not be because the play had not been brought conspicuously before his attention.

The external evidence which has been collected to prove Shakespeare's authorship of *The Merry Devil of Edmouton* is of the most dubious kind. It consists merely in the unsupported statements of the booksellers Moseley and Kirkman⁴ about the middle of the seventeenth century, and in the play's presence in the 'Shakespeare volume'⁵ of Charles the Second's library. Internal evidence there is none, unless we accept as such the not very significant likeness of Host Blague to the host in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*—a likeness which, as far as it shows anything, shows that the one writer has imitated the other, or that both have found dramatic use for a very common stock type.

Tieck was the first 'critic' who ascribed *The Merry Devil of Edmouton* to Shakespeare. He offered no serious evidence in favour of his theory, but has been followed by two other German writers, Franz Horn and H. von Friesen. No English reader, except Hopkinson, has been able to detect in this comedy the slightest approach to Shakespeare's manner, and the more trustworthy Elizabethan scholars in Germany—Bodenstedt,⁶ Ulrici, Warnke and Proescholdt—are equally incredulous. Two eighteenth-century antiquaries, Coxeter and Oldys,⁷ assigned the play to Michael Drayton, for no very apparent reason except that the country in which the scene is laid is described in *Polyolbion*. Charles

¹ Middleton's Works, ed. Bullen, vol. viii, p. 36.

² 1616.

³ p. xlv.

⁴ The editor of the first edition of Dodsley's *Select Collection of Old Plays* has the following prefatory note, which is both sound and candid: 'One Kirkman, a bookseller, who, about fourscore years ago, made diligent enquiry after old plays, and collated and published a great number, affirms this play to have been wrote by Shakespeare; but I cannot help thinking he must be mistaken. When it was wrote I cannot say, or who was the author of it.'

⁵ Cf. p. vii.

⁶ Note appended to Friesen's article: *Jahrbuch* I, p. 165.

⁷ Cf. Reed's note on the play in the second edition of Dodsley's Collection, vol. v, p. 247, 1780.

Lamb and Mr. Fleay slightly favour this attribution, while Hazlitt and Ulrici ascribe the comedy to Thomas Heywood instead.

There seems no adequate reason to accept either Shakespeare, Drayton, or Heywood as the author of this fine play, and it will probably be long before we can venture with safety beyond the statement of Knight, that it is 'the performance of a true poet, whoever he be'. Certainly the vitality of the scenes, the heartiness of the humour, and the unsurpassed delicacy in the portrayal of true love and true friendship, make *The Merry Devil of Edmonton* one of the most delightful of all the pseudo-Shakespearian plays to read and to re-read.

XI. *Fair Em* does not appear to have been registered at Stationers' Hall, though at least two early quarto editions were published. One of these, which we shall refer to as Q. 1, is undated, and has the title: '*A Pleasant Comedie, of faire Em the Millers daughter of Manchester: With the loue of William the Conqueror: As it was sundrietimes publicquely acted in the honourable citie of London, by the right honourable the Lord Strange his seruauents. Imprinted at London for T. N. and I. W. and are to be solde in S. Dunstones Church-yan in Fleete-streete.*'

The only known copy of this edition is in the Bodleian; the other, somewhat commoner, quarto has a practically identical title-page, except as regards the imprint, which reads: 'Printed for John Wright, and are to be sold at his shop at the signe of the Bible in Guilt-spur street without Newgate. 1631.' The textual differences between the two editions are for the most part merely orthographic or accidental, but it seems likely that Q. 1, with its archaic spelling and grammar, is the older by perhaps a generation or more. The play is pretty definitely dated by the statement that it was acted by Lord Strange's servants, for this name was applied to one of the London companies¹ only from 1589 to 1593, and it seems probable that Q. 1 was published while the memory of 'the right honourable the Lord Strange his seruauents' was still fairly fresh in the mind of the publisher and the public to whose tastes he was catering. Q. 2 is hardly more than a reprint of Q. 1, occasionally correcting an obvious mistake but never venturing on the real elucidation which some passages greatly require.

W. R. Chetwood, an eighteenth-century editor of *Fair Em*, enumerates three early editions of the play, assigning to one the date 1619. It was this 1619 quarto which Chetwood claimed to follow, but as the alterations which he introduced into the text are certainly not Elizabethan,² and as no one else has alluded to the edition of 1619, there is reason to believe it a mere figment of Chetwood's imagination, devised to give authority to his departure from the text of the two genuine quartos.

Regarding the authorship of *Fair Em* we have not a shred of evidence previous

Originally the Earl of Leicester's; later successively the Earl of Derby's, Lord Hunsdon's, the Lord Chamberlain's, &c., cf. Fleay's *History of the Stage*, pp. 82 ff., 133, &c.

² For a fuller discussion of this question, cf. Introduction to Warnke and Proescholdt's edition of *Fair Em*, pp. viii, ix.

to the Restoration. The only seventeenth-century hint of Shakespeare's connexion with the play is the label 'Shakespeare. Vol. I' on the back of the book which contained *Fair Em*, *Mucedorus*, and *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*, in the library of Charles II. Such small weight as this doubtful testimony may have is quite balanced by the assertion of Edward Phillips in his *Theatrum Poetarum*¹ that *Fair Em* was written by Robert Greene. Both these ascriptions have found defenders, but it is at present almost certain that neither of the poets suggested was ever in the least degree connected with the writing of our comedy.

The theory of Greene's authorship, advanced by Phillips and accepted by Dyce, has been discredited by R. Simpson, who shows that two lines in the last scene² are ridiculed, and the unknown author violently attacked, in Greene's *Farewell to Folly*, published in 1591. Tieck, Horn, Hopkinson, and Simpson have imagined that they saw in *Fair Em* indications of Shakespeare's handiwork, but only the last has produced arguments which to-day deserve even casual consideration. Simpson's idea, which he has elaborated with rather excessive ingenuity, is that Shakespeare wrote *Fair Em* as an allegorical attack on Greene and his school. William the Conqueror represents William Kempe, who had recently led a theatrical company to Denmark; Mountney typifies Marlowe, Manville Greene, and the successful Valingford, Shakespeare himself, while *Fair Em* symbolizes the prize of the dramatic contest, the Manchester public. This interpretation is accepted in general by Mr. Fleay, who, however, ascribes the play to R. Wilson instead of Shakespeare, and explains Valingford as George Peele, while *Fair Em*, in his judgement, means the company of Queen's Players, not the Manchester audience.

In regard to the possible allegorical significance of *Fair Em*, the sanest conclusion is doubtless that to which Warnke and Proescholdt have come: there may be a substratum of allegory beneath the structure of the comedy, but it is only vaguely discernible, if it exists, and fails entirely to support the elaborate edifice of theory which both Mr. Simpson and Mr. Fleay have attempted to erect upon it. Mr. Simpson appears to have proved two facts: first, that *Fair Em* was not written by Greene; and, secondly, that it antedates Greene's *Farewell to Folly*.³ It is doubtless equally certain that he has not succeeded in establishing, from external evidence, even the slightest probability of the play's Shakespearian origin, while, as he practically admits himself, the dramatic character and style of the work tend strongly to negative his arguments. In *Fair Em*, as Charles Knight says, 'we look in vain for all that sets Shakespeare so high above his contemporaries; his wit, his humour, his poetry, his philosophy, his intimate knowledge of man, his exquisite method.'

Fair Em is a thoroughly childish and inartistic production. Its only charm rests in the fact that it exhibits, with much of the crudity, also something of the heartiness and freshness of childish performances. Regarded as a serious essay

¹ 1675.² v. 121 and 157.³ 1591. For another indication of date, cf. p. xxxviii.

in dramatic art, it is full of impossibilities and absurdities both in the conception of the characters and in the incidents by which the action is carried along. Yet for the reader who can overlook its puerilities and occasional flatnesses, this indifferent play will probably justify the claim of the title-page, that it is 'a pleasant commodie'.

Fair Em might well have been defined in terms dear to the Elizabethan playwrights as 'Two Comedies in One'. Only in the fifth act is there any sort of real connexion between the two plots which make up the drama. The source of the story that gives the work its title is so far undiscovered; the other plot—that of William the Conqueror and the Danish Court—has been shown by Professor Schick, in his scholarly Preface to *The Spanish Tragedy*,¹ to come from Henry Wotton's *Courtlie controuersie of Cupids Cautels* (1578), which is itself a translation of Jaques Yver's *Prin-Temps d'Yver*. The novel which concerns us is the fourth in the collection; it ends tragically with the execution of Lubeck and the suicide of William.

XII. Of all the doubtful plays, *The Two Noble Kinsmen* is the one which has inspired the greatest amount of criticism and conjecture; yet there is perhaps no other member of the class that has so thoroughly maintained the mystery of its authorship, or has so often obliged candid investigators to retract their theories and confess themselves at a loss. This brilliant and puzzling drama was registered April 8, 1634,² and appeared first in quarto (Q.) with the interesting title-page: '*The Two Noble Kinsmen: Presented at the Blackfriars by the Kings Maiesties servants, with great applause: Written by the memorable Worthies of their time;*

{ *Mr. John Fletcher, and* }
{ *Mr. William Shakespeare.* } *Gent.*

Printed at London by Tho. Cotes, for Iohn Waterson: and are to be sold at the signe of the Crowne in Pauls Church-yard. 1634.'

The only other seventeenth-century edition is that (F.) which was published in 1679, with no mention of Shakespeare's name, in the second Beaumont-Fletcher folio. That this text is only a reprint of Q. with revised spelling, is made clear both from collation and from the express indication at the beginning of the folio that *The Two Noble Kinsmen* is one of the seventeen plays omitted in the first folio of Beaumont and Fletcher, and printed 'out of 4to'. The play has maintained its position in subsequent editions of Beaumont and Fletcher, and has been frequently published of late years, either separately or in collections. The standard edition is that prepared in 1876 for the New Shakspeare Society by Harold Littledale.

We first hear of a drama on the subject of Chaucer's *Knightes Tale* in the

¹ *Temple Dramatists* edition, p. xxvi.

² '8^o Aprilis (1634). Master John Waterson Entred for his Copy vnder the hands of Sir Henry Herbert and master Aspley warden a TragiComedy called *the two noble kinsmen* by John fletcher and William Shakespeare. vjd.'

accounts of Queen Elizabeth's entertainment at Oxford in 1566. Stow's Chronicle for August 31, 1566, contains the following allusion: 'Comedies also and Tragedies were played in Christs Church, where the Queene's Highnesse lodged. Among the which, the Comedie entituled *Palemon and Arcet*, made by Master Edwards of the Queenes Chappell, had such tragicall successe as was lamentable; for at that time, by the fall of a wall, and a paire of staires, and great presse of the multitude, three men were slaine.'¹

In Henslowe's Diary for the months of September–November, 1594, occur four notices of receipts from the presentation of a play with the same name, 'palamon and arsett.' The letters 'ne', affixed to the earliest entry, that of Sept. 17, show that the drama was on that day acted for the first time.² Collier's theory is that the work here mentioned is a revision of Edwards's old play, prepared by Shakespeare for joint performance by the Lord Chamberlain's and Lord Admiral's companies at the Newington Theatre, and that the Shakespearian portions were later elaborated by Fletcher in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. Skeat and Littledale, however, base our play directly on Chaucer, and deny with probable justice that it has any connexion with either of the earlier dramas just mentioned, both of which are now lost.

Modern criticism is unanimous on two points: First, that *The Two Noble Kinsmen* was written by two poets, very different in style, genius, and character. Second, that the longer and weaker portion is mainly or exclusively the work of Fletcher. The separation is thus made by Littledale:

(a) The non-Fletcher part: i. i (except ll. 1–40), part of ii, iii, iv; ii. i; iii. i, ii; nearly all of iv. iii; v. i (except ll. 1–19), part of iii, iv (except ll. 99–113).

(b) The Fletcher part: All the rest.

The 'metrical tests' have been applied to this play with striking effect. The results of Littledale's reckoning as to the comparative proportion of double endings and run-on lines in the two divisions of the work may be tabulated thus:

	<i>Double endings.</i>	<i>Run-on lines.</i>
Part not by Fletcher	1 to 3.49	1 to 1.78
Part by Fletcher	1 to 1.89	1 to 4.06

The utter dissimilarity is obvious at a glance. In fact there is not the least difficulty in distinguishing the parts, except in one or two prose scenes belonging to the underplot, and in several passages which appear to combine the work of both hands. It is of importance to note that the style of the un-Fletcherian part of *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, as represented by the metrical tests, approaches very near to that of *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest*, and that it almost

¹ Littledale (Introduction 10*, 11*) quotes a fuller account of this catastrophe from Nicholls, *Progr. of Eliz.*, 1823, pp. 210–13. The authority is Anthony Wood.

² The following allusion in *Bartholomew Fair*, 1614 (iv. ii, *Mermaid* ed., pp. 103–4), is probably to this play: 'Quar. . . Well, my word is out of the *Arcadia*, then; *Argalus*.—*Winw.* And mine out of the play; *Palemon*.' From the reference to the *Arcadia*, we may infer that the work coupled with it was not a recent one. Though it is possible, it seems to me excessively improbable that *The Two Noble Kinsmen* was acted as early as 1614, or indeed for some years after.

coincides with that of the un-Fletcherian part of *Henry VIII*, ascribed usually to Shakespeare, but by some recent critics to Massinger.

The answer to the long-mooted question as to Shakespeare's part-authorship of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* has always depended, and still depends, on the balancing of the undeniably Shakespearian tone of the style against the quite un-Shakespearian characterization. There are great names in abundance on each side.

The authenticity of the so-called Shakespeare parts has been defended by Lamb, Coleridge, De Quincey, Tyrrell, Spalding, Hallam, Hickson, Skeat, Furness, Littledale, Hopkinson, and Swinburne. The number of the sceptics is equally large and no less distinguished, including, strange to say, the usually over-credulous German writers. The case for the negative has been put boldly and trenchantly by Shelley in a letter to his wife: ¹ 'I have been reading the "Noble Kinsmen", in which, with the exception of that lovely scene, to which you added so much grace in reading to me, I have been disappointed. The Jailer's Daughter is a poor imitation, and deformed. The whole story wants moral discrimination and modesty. I do not believe Shakespeare wrote a word of it.' The same disbelief has been expressed by Steevens, Hazlitt, Knight, Ulrici, Delius, von Friesen, Halliwell-Phillips, Boyle, Bierfreund, Furnivall, and Fleay.

In all that pertains to verse form and poetic expression the un-Fletcherian scenes of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* must probably impress the majority of readers as more overwhelmingly Shakespearian than any considerable passage in *Edward III*, *Arden of Feversham*, or *A Yorkshire Tragedy*. Yet in the case of this play no less certainly than in the case of the others it seems to be the tendency of good criticism to discredit the idea of Shakespeare's authorship. As Professor Ward says, ² 'The ordinary results of a prolonged reflexion on the problem of the authorship of the doubtful portions of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* seems to be either an increased unwillingness, or at least a diminished willingness, to decide it in favour of the only specious claim—that which has been advanced on behalf of Shakespeare.'

An interesting case in point is that of Mr. Spalding, who in 1833 defended the genuineness of the 'Shakespearian' scenes in his classic *Letter on Shakespeare's Authorship of the Two Noble Kinsmen*. Seven years later his opinion was 'not now so decided as it once was'; and in 1847 he had become so doubtful as to declare: 'The question of Shakespeare's share in this play is really insoluble.'³ Similarly, Mr. Fleay and Dr. Furnivall, who at first accepted the authenticity of the doubtful scenes, came, on maturer consideration, to pronounce them certainly spurious.

It is highly improbable that any critical reader of this play has met with a single scene which, after judging it on its own merits, he has been able to

¹ Prose Works (ed. 1888), ii. 235.

² *Eng. Dram. Lit.* ii. 243.

³ Cf. the reprint of the *Letter* with 'Forewords' by Furnivall in Publications of New. Sh. Soc., 1876.

pronounce candidly and with absolute confidence to be the work of Shakespeare. It would scarcely be too much to say that there is not even one speech which has ever seemed thoroughly and completely convincing to any conscientious student—no speech, that is, on which he would have been willing to rest the whole question, declaring that just here, if nowhere else, the fingers of the greatest poet of the world have infallibly left their mark. On the contrary, when we consider individually the parts of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* which have been ascribed to Shakespeare, we find invariably that each act, scene, or verse falls just short of what it should be. Always there is the strong Shakespearian reminiscence, but nowhere quite the full and perfect reality that we could swear to.

The advocates of the play's authenticity are, therefore, driven upon one or the other of two entirely illegitimate courses: either they argue from vague generalities of impression, without venturing upon the examination of details, whether of method, characterization, or technique; or they go on the hypothesis—perfectly unjustifiable and illogical—that we have before us not, indeed, Shakespeare's work as we all know it, but the same work degraded and weakened by the mischievous revision of Fletcher. On this last assumption there is no depth of critical absurdity which may not be reached. Admitting once that we are to judge of the work of Shakespeare not by what we know it to be, but by what we imagine that it might have been after alteration and debasement at the hands of a Fletcher or a Rowley, we may prove Shakespeare's concern in any wretched play of his age—in *Fair Em* itself, if we like—by merely assuming a sufficiently small amount of the Shakespearian gold and a relatively large amount of the alloy.

That portion of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* which is obviously not Fletcher's contains some of the most brilliant of Jacobean poetry. It is not less certain, I think, that it contains no spark of psychological insight or philosophy of life which can in sober moments be thought either worthy of the mature Shakespeare or even suggestive of him.

On the utter absurdity of associating Emilia, as she appears in any scene of the play, with Imogen or Miranda, or indeed with any other reputable dramatic heroine, Dr. Furnivall appears to have spoken the final word. Nor can her coarseness be explained, as critics have attempted to explain the spinelessness of Palamon and Arcite, by the theory that Fletcher has marred the promise of Shakespeare's plan. In the most distinctly un-Fletcherian scenes of all she is what Dr. Furnivall has called her, 'a silly lady's-maid or shop girl, not knowing her own mind, up and down like a bucket in a well.'¹

On the dramatic character of the scenes not Fletcher's, few words require to be said, but they must be strong ones. There are two portions of the play which probably dwell so vividly in every reader's mind as to obscure the recollection of all the rest. They are the first scene of the first act and the first scene of the fifth. Both, it need hardly be said, are by another than Fletcher, and

¹ Note, for instance, her really revolting wishy-washiness and ingrained sensuality in what are perhaps her best scenes, iv. ii (the portrait scene) and v. iii,

neither has much to do with the action of the play. They are, as De Quincey has remarked,¹ examples of the most gorgeous rhetoric, and there is little reason, I think, for adding De Quincey's qualification that they are anything much better.

Had the first scene of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* come in the middle, the play's claim to authenticity would probably have found far fewer supporters. As it is, we are gripped at the very start by the grand operatic opening, the music of the verse, the spectacular effect of the marriage procession met by the sombre and hysterical widows, by the swaying of the opposing groups to and fro across the stage, by the co-operative supplication and bending of knees—not singly and individually, but in symmetrical groups, and, as it were, to the sound of music—by all the specious clap-trap, in fact, which seems to be dramatic action, and is really mere verbiage and ballet-dancing. That Shakespeare wrote a syllable of this scene will hardly be believed by any diligent reader who will take the trouble to ask himself what it all means and what is its connexion with the rest of the play.

The other memorable scene is that in which Arcite, Palamon, and Emilia offer their prayers before the altars of their patron deities. Here again we have an entire lack of dramatic utility or propriety cloaking itself behind spectacular brilliance and fine but unmeaning poetry. The whole incident is, of course, transported bodily from Chaucer's tale, where it is in keeping, to the closing act of the drama, where it most emphatically is not. Two of the speeches—those of Arcite and Emilia—are in De Quincey's words, 'gorgeous rhetoric'; the third is hardly that. They would make a fine though somewhat tedious division of an epic poem, but to suppose that they were foisted in by Shakespeare himself at the very climax of his play, and were meant by him for representation before an audience uninterested in mythical rites or divinities, but craving immediate and realistic action, this surely is to strain credulity to the breaking-point.

In conclusion we may thus sum up the matter: metrical and external evidence agree in proving that, if Shakespeare wrote any part of *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, in its present form, he must have done so during the very last period of his career. But, rich as the language and verse are in Shakespearian reminiscence, there is practically nothing in characterization or dramatic structure which points to the author of *The Tempest*; while such defects as the ambiguous personality of Emilia, the failure properly to distinguish between Palamon and Arcite, and the low dramatic pitch of the doubtful scenes render their ascription to the mature Shakespeare all but unpardonable. The only hypothesis, indeed, on which present-day criticism can even consider the idea of Shakespeare's connexion with *The Two Noble Kinsmen* is that laid down, not very probably, by Mr. Herford; namely, that the play consists of very late 'poetic'² fragments by Shakespeare, subsequently connected and completed by Fletcher.

If we put aside for the present the theory of Shakespeare's authorship as

¹ Works, ed. 1862, x. 49.

² Fragments, that is, in which the requirements of practical stagecraft were neglected to a much greater extent than in *The Tempest*.

being at the very least quite undemonstrable, there remain for consideration the claims of three other poets. George Chapman was suggested by Knight¹ many years ago, but no other writer has accepted the idea as even conceivable, and it need be mentioned only to be rejected. An acute Danish scholar, Dr. Bierfreund, maintains in his dissertation on 'Palamon og Arcite'² that Beaumont was Fletcher's sole collaborator in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*,³ which he believes to be their first joint work. This attribution is favoured by the well-known fact of the literary partnership between Beaumont and Fletcher, and by the metrical similarity of Beaumont's verse to that of Shakespeare's last period and of the 'Shakespearian' part of *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. Beyond this, however, there seems to be nothing to support Dr. Bierfreund's theory, which, till it is further substantiated, can hardly be regarded as more than an ingenious guess.

Undoubtedly the most serious claimant to the honour, besides Shakespeare, is Philip Massinger, whose cause has been championed with a good deal of ability by Boyle and Fleay. In poetic technique, Massinger has been shown to approach nearest of all the Elizabethans to Shakespeare, and the metrical tests give him an even better title than his master to the doubtful part of our play. Moreover, the structural and psychological imperfections of the work, the tendency to unnecessary coarseness of language, the feeble imitation of Shakespeare, the frequent similarity to Massinger's acknowledged writings, all tell as strongly for Massinger's authorship as against that of Shakespeare.

There appears, indeed, to be but one serious objection to the assumption, otherwise very probable, that *The Two Noble Kinsmen* was written by Fletcher and Massinger, and that is the magnificent poetry of the un-Fletcherian part, with which hardly anything in Massinger's accepted work can compare. Prudent criticism will leave the whole question in doubt, till more evidence can be obtained. Yet, if a tentative decision is to be made from the facts at present before us, it appears both a more logical and a more pleasant course to assume that Massinger should, for once, have risen to the lofty poetry of *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, than to assume that the ripened Shakespeare should have stooped to its low level of character and morality.

XIII. *The Birth of Merlin* survives in a late seventeenth-century quarto (Q.) with the following title: '*The Birth of Merlin: or The Childe hath found his Father. As it hath been several times Acted with great Applause. Written by William Shakespear, and William Rowley. Placere cupio. London: Printed by Tho. Johnson for Francis Kirkman, and Henry Marsh, and are to be sold at the Princes Arms in Chancery-Lane. 1662.*'

There seems to have been no second edition till the publication of Tyrrell's 'Doubtful Plays of Shakspeare' in 1851. The spelling of Q, as might be expected, is of the usual Restoration character, and the metre has been corrupted, in many

¹ Pictorial Shakespeare, vii. p. 182 ff.

² p. 77.

³ The same view has been expressed more casually by Colman (*Beaumont and Fletcher's Works*, 1778) and Hazlitt (*Elizabethan Literature*).

cases irretrievably, by the printing of the entire play in long prose lines—apparently to save space. From the language and grammar, however, as well as from the general tone, it is clear that *The Birth of Merlin* was not composed later than the reign of James I; nor is it at all likely that it antedates James's accession. Mr. Fleay assigns it, in its present form, to the year 1622.

There is no external evidence of Shakespeare's partial authorship except that of the publisher, Kirkman, repeated in his catalogues of 1661 and 1671, where we read: 'Shakespear and Rowley . . Birth of Merlin . . T⟨ragi⟩ C⟨omedy⟩.' This attribution, made so long after Shakespeare's death, and by a particularly untrustworthy authority, has met with scant respect in modern times save from the early German critics, Tieck and Horn. There is not a single poetic passage in *The Birth of Merlin*, which will justify for an instant the hypothesis of Shakespeare's authorship. The disjointed nature of the plot, moreover, the foolish and immature morality of the Modestia scenes, and the repeated appeals to the cheap make-shifts of sorcery and divination, stamp it as distinctively un-Shakespearean.

Yet the reader of this play will perceive, as no modern reader of *Cromwell* or *The London Prodigal* easily can, what was in the minds of those critics who have defended its genuineness. One meets with occasional bits of poetry and characterization which have certainly a remote kinship to Shakespeare and were probably written under his influence. In passages like the speeches of Prince Uter in II. iii¹, we recognize dimly and afar off the syntactic rush, the ease of verse flow, the figurative power, and sincerity of emotion, which we know in Shakespeare. The strength and naturalness of the lines given to Edoll in II. ii, show that the author could portray deep passion in lucid, simple verse.

But in other places we find what seems to be intentional and rather disastrous imitation of Shakespeare's broken syntax and bold use of words. In these cases we acknowledge ourselves in the presence of a poet of rather more than respectable endowments, yet we must often feel that the actual value of the thought is hardly sufficient recompense for untwisting the convolutions of a sentence such as this:

'Or like to Marius soldiers, who, o'retook,
The eyesight killing Gorgon at one look
Made everlasting stand: so fear'd my power,
Whose cloud aspir'd the Sun, dissolv'd a shower.'²

No commentator has seen particular reason to deny William Rowley's concern in *The Birth of Merlin*, since this Rowley was too obscure a dramatist to be credited with a play, without at least hearsay evidence in his favour. Hopkinson assigns the entire performance to Rowley, while Fleay, on the other hand, believes his part to consist solely or mainly in the revision of another man's work. Mr. P. A. Daniel (1884) suggested Middleton as the author of the play, and Mr. Fleay at one time accepted this attribution with conviction, at least as regards the serious

¹ II. 162-9, 183-205.

² II. i, II. 95-8.

parts.¹ Till the matter has been much more thoroughly investigated, however, the connexion of Middleton with *The Birth of Merlin* must remain quite problematical. It is perhaps an indication in his favour that the detailed legal allusions² prove the author to have been one well versed in the law,³ and the fact of his frequent collaboration⁴ with William Rowley adds a little more to the weight of confirmatory evidence.

XIV. Until 1844, the fine play of *Sir Thomas More* existed only in a confused, mutilated, and generally unknown manuscript belonging to the British Museum.⁵ In that year it was transcribed by Dyce, with admirable fidelity, and printed for the Shakespeare Society. The only other edition, with modernized spelling, was published in 1902 by A. F. Hopkinson for private circulation. As Mr. Hopkinson did not consult the MS., his variations from Dyce have no claim to consideration except as pure conjecture.

The text of Dyce contains a few unintentional deviations from the MS., such as the difficult and varied handwriting of the latter rendered practically unavoidable. These trifling inaccuracies, so far as careful collation has revealed them, have been set right in the present edition. For certain parts of the play, however, Dyce's version must remain the ultimate authority, since a number of words and lines, intelligible to him, have by the subsequent deterioration of the MS. become quite indecipherable or have entirely crumbled away. The manuscript consists of twenty sheets, written in five⁶ different hands. The paper is not of the same kind throughout, and some of the scenes are obviously misplaced. In several cases we get two drafts of the same scene, while small portions of other scenes have been entirely lost. Altogether the confusion is extreme; yet Dyce has succeeded in effecting what appears to be certainly the proper arrangement, and the lacunae are nowhere so great as to obscure the plot.

Leaves 3-5, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17-22, of the MS.,⁷ comprising about two-thirds of the whole, are undoubtedly older than the rest. These thirteen leaves, written closely on both sides of the paper, with a certain amount of neatness and only the usual copyist's errors, belong, without doubt, to the draft of the play which was submitted to Sir Edmund Tilney, the Master of the Revels, for licence to act. On the margins of these pages we meet, from time to time, with Tilney's comments, called forth by what he regarded as the seditious nature of various passages. Thus, at the top of the very first page he has written: 'Leaue out ye insurrection wholly and the cause thereof, and begin with Sir Tho. Moore at ye mayors sessions, with a reportt afterwarde off his good seruice don, being shrieue off London,

¹ *Life of Shakespeare*, 1889, pp. 289-90. Withdrawn *Biog. Chron. Eng. Dr.*, 1891, II. 105, where he regards the *Birth of Merlin* as a refashioning by Rowley of an older play, possibly the *Uter Pendragon*, acted by the Admiral's Company in 1597.

² e.g. II. iii. 20-2; III. i. 89-91; III. ii. 38-44.

³ Middleton may have been a member of Gray's Inn.

⁴ Cf. Fleay, *Biograph. Chron.* on 'Middleton'.

⁵ Harleian 7368.

⁶ Possibly only four; cf. p. xlviii. According to Dr. Furnivall, there are clearly six, and perhaps seven.

⁷ That is, leaves 1-3, &c., of the play, which begins on the third leaf of the MS.

vppon a mutiny agaynst ye Lumbardes, only by a shortt reportt, and nott otherwise, att your own perrilles. E. Tyllney.'

The insurrection scene, however, and the other parts to which the Master of the Revels took exception were not left out, but merely recast. There appears, indeed, to have been no difference of plot between the original version of *Sir Thomas More*, as submitted to Tilney, and the elaborated form in which the MS. preserves it. The new scenes are revisions of the old ones, indescribably finer in several instances as poetry and drama, but adding no fresh element to the general design.

In one or two cases a page of the original matter has been almost totally hidden by having a new passage pasted bodily over it. The thirteen legible leaves of the original draft give us the following scenes. Act I, Scene i, ii, iii; II. i, iv (ll. 173-end); III. i; IV. i (ll. 1-309), ii, iii, iv, v (except new draft of ll. 68-104); V. i, ii, iii, iv. Scraps of other important scenes, such as II. ii and III. ii, are also occasionally discernible, but the old versions of these parts of the play have generally been deleted or pasted over to prevent confusion with the new, improved readings.

The original draft of the play, as submitted to Tilney, is in a single hand and runs on almost without a blot or correction; it is a clean copy, made perhaps not by the author himself, but by a professional scribe. The later insertions, however,—leaves 6-9, 12, 13, 16—are for the most part preserved exactly as they were composed. They are full of deletions and alterations, and are written on paper of varying sorts and sizes, in certainly three, probably four, different hands, none of which resembles that of the original thirteen sheets. If, then, we call the handwriting of the first draft Hand A, we may thus indicate the various spots which appear on the seven new leaves:—

Hand B. Found only on leaf 6, which contains a revision¹ of the scene between More and his wife (IV. v, ll. 68-104). This passage of seventy lines was never properly fitted into the play, so that the old version in Hand A has been left standing in its proper place, while the improved, lengthened version in Hand B was negligently inserted between II. i and II. ii.

Hand C. Occurring on the first page of leaf 7 (II. ii) and on leaf 16 (IV. i. 309, S. D. 'Enter a Servingman,' to end of scene).

Hand D. This is the handwriting which Mr. Simpson and Mr. Spedding have united in assigning to Shakespeare upon evidence of a most interesting character. The only difficulty connected with the discrimination between the various handwritings of the MS. concerns itself with this Hand D. Mr. Simpson² believed that all the passages in the play, which are not in the easily recognizable A, B, and C hands, are written in Hand D and by Shakespeare. This would make the latter the author or reviser of the following scenes: II. iii, iv (ll. 1-172); III. ii and iii.

Mr. Spedding,³ on the contrary, recognizes a fifth hand, to which he assigns:

¹ Printed in the Appendix to the play, pp. 419, 420.

² † *Notes and Queries*, viii. 1 ff.

³ † *Notes and Queries*, x. 227 ff.

II. iii ; III. ii, ll. 1-282 ; III. iii ; and perhaps the remaining part of III. ii. Thus Spedding leaves to Shakespeare only the magnificent insurrection scene¹ to the end of line 172, and a very doubtful title to the end of III. ii from line 283. The best judgement on this difficult question seems that kindly given me by Mr. Herbert, of the British Museum,² who considers all the scenes ascribed by Simpson to Shakespeare to be in one handwriting, with the exception of III. ii, ll. 283-end. In agreement with this opinion we divide as follows :—

Hand D : II. iii, iv (ll. 1-172) ; III. ii (ll. 1-282), iii.

Hand E : III. ii (ll. 283-end).

The manuscript of *Sir Thomas More* contains no direct statement in regard to the play's origin. The questions of authorship, date, and stage production are all left dark, except for such doubtful light as a few casual allusions in the body of the text may shed. That the drama belongs to the end of the sixteenth century, and probably not to the extreme end, is indicated by several considerations. In Act IV, Scene 1,³ there occur two anachronistic references to Ogle, a theatrical wig-maker mentioned in Cunningham's *Revels Accounts* for 1573; and again under date of 1584. As one of the players is represented as leaving More's house to get from Ogle a false beard, with which he later appears, the realistic effect of the allusion would have been lost, had not Ogle's shop been in actual existence when the drama was produced.

Dyce suggested 1590, or just before, as the date of the play, and Simpson, who regarded the insurrection scenes as inspired by a similar outbreak in 1586, decided positively for that year or the next. Mr. Fleay, on the other hand, supported by Hopkinson, pronounced 1595-6 the earliest probable date, and refers to a rising in June, 1595, which might well have given appositeness to the insurrection scenes and rendered them particularly distasteful to the Master of the Revels. The two dates proposed by Simpson and Fleay respectively may safely be accepted as determining the period within which *Sir Thomas More* was written.

The additions were most likely composed soon after the body of the play. This is almost certainly true of More's magnificent speech in defence of order and humanity in II. iv, intended obviously as a balance to the revolutionary scenes which so displeased Tilney. Without such a makeweight on the side of law, no theatre manager, however bold, could well have ventured to perform the first part of the play, in the face of the tremendous prohibition: 'Leaue out ye insurrection wholly and the cause thereof . . . att your own perilles.' The most probable explanation of the number of hands concerned in the work

¹ II. iv.

² Through the kindness of Dr. Furnivall I am able to give also the careful opinion of Mr. Warner, the Keeper of the MSS. at the British Museum. His belief is that ff. 8, 9—the leaves containing the insurrection scene (II. iv. 1-172)—are in a different hand from the rest, but he is not sure of the matter. This view would make the problem much simpler, but I have thought it safer to accept the decision which is less favourable to the idea of Shakespeare's authorship.

³ ll. 126, 292

and the extraordinary disorder of the MS. seems to be that the manager, anxious to act the play with the least possible loss of time, but afraid to run directly counter to authority, turned the original draft over to several writers, each of whom hastily revised what seemed to him most glaringly in need of alteration.

There is reason for believing that *Sir Thomas More* was acted by the Lord Chamberlain's Servants. Before the speech of the Messenger in III. iii, the MS. writes:

Mess.	}	
T. Goedal,		which, of course, means that the messenger's part was to be taken by T. Goedal. Thomas Goodale, who is here indicated, is known ¹ to have been in 1592 a subordinate member of the Lord Strange's Company, later called the Lord Chamberlain's.

Such discussion as this play has received hitherto has concerned itself chiefly with the interesting possibility that the scenes in Hand D, or some part of them, may be directly from the pen and brain of Shakespeare. The theory of Shakespearian part-authorship was evolved by Richard Simpson in 1871, and supported in the following year by James Spedding, with the differences as to detail already specified. Mr. Hopkinson has accepted their general conclusions, and Professor Ward, declaring his inability to judge concerning the genuineness of the so-called Shakespearian handwriting, goes on to say: ² 'As to the style and manner of the passages in question, not only may the speeches of More, in particular that addressed to the insurgents, which may have been specially elaborated to suit the requirements of the licenser, be said without hesitation to have the true Shakespearean manner, besides being genuinely Shakespearean in feeling, but it is with difficulty they can be conceived to have been written by any other contemporary author.' Dr. Furnivall, on the other hand, doubts that the text of the insurrection scene, &c., in the MS., is in Shakespeare's writing, and says of this portion of the play that there is 'nothing necessarily Shakspearean in it, though part of it {is} worthy of him'.³ Mr. Fleay appears likewise to be incredulous.⁴

The difficult question raised by these dissimilar opinions would be much easier of solution if we could, with Spedding, dismiss all but the supreme passage in the play, the culminating insurrection scene and speech of More,⁵ as written in a different hand, and therefore not belonging to the Shakespearian matter. This, it must be said in candour, we are perhaps hardly justified in doing.⁶ All the scenes enumerated on p. xlix as belonging to Hand D—including the relatively weak Randall-Erasmus-More passages in III. ii, and the even more commonplace II. iii—may very probably be in the same handwriting. Moreover, it is practically certain, from the appearance of the MS. of the 'insurrection scene' (as will be indicated later) that the handwriting is that of the author. If, therefore, we

¹ Cf. Fleay, *Hist. of the Stage*, p. 84.

² *Eng. Dram. Lit.*, ii, 214.

³ *Royal Shakspeare*, i, cxv. His opinion has not altered materially since.

⁴ *Life of Shakespeare*, 292 ff.

⁵ II. iv, ll. 1-172.

⁶ At least for the present, though we should have Mr. Warner's great authority for doing so. Cf. p. xlix, note 2.

decide that II. iv, ll. 1-172, is written and composed by Shakespeare, then we should be prepared to accept II. iii; III. ii, ll. 1-282; III. iii, as at least transcribed in Shakespeare's hand. It is quite possible to do this, and the necessity of doing so detracts little perhaps from the strength of the case which may be founded on the 'insurrection scene' alone.

The first 172 lines of the 'insurrection scene' appear to me more thoroughly in the tone of Shakespeare than any other passage in the doubtful plays. There is possibly more striking poetry in *Edward III* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, and greater intensity of feeling in parts of *Arden of Feversham*, but it would be difficult or impossible to find, outside the plays of the ordinary canon, any extract of similar length which reminds the reader so strongly and lastingly of the special peculiarities of Shakespeare's genius. We get something of the familiar ring in the very first sentence, Lincoln's appeal to the unruly mob he has gathered about him.

'*Lincolne.* Peace, heare me: he that will not see a red hearing¹ at a Herry grote, butter at alevenpence a pounce, meale at nyne shillings a bushell, and beeff at fower nobles a stone, lyst to me.

Geo. Bett. Yt will come to that passe, yf straingers be sufferd. Mark him.'

This, and the speeches that follow inevitably suggest Jack Cade and his company in 2 *Henry VI.*² The perception of the individual Shakespearian touch grows stronger in the mob's clamorous debate as to whether Shrewsbury, Surrey, or More, is to address them—a debate decided finally for More with the true mob logic of Shakespeare.—

'*Doll.* Letts heare him: a keepes a plentyfull shrevaltry, and a made my brother Arther Watchins Seriant Safes yeoman: lets heare Shreeve Moore.

All. Shreive Moor, Moor, More, Shreue Moore!'³

The speech of More, which follows, is praised on all hands both for its splendid poetry and for its likeness to Shakespeare. but it, as well as the earlier part of the scene, must be read in its entirety to be appreciated. The numerous parallels of word and phrase with the acknowledged works will not escape the notice of any reader. Equally apparent and generally recognized is the similarity to Shakespeare's early style in all matters of technique. The bold figurative use of words,⁴ the rich smoothness of verse, and the total absence of strain or affectation at the height of poetic intensity, mark these lines as not less Shakespearian in metrical quality than any part of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* or *Edward III*.

The top scene of *Sir Thomas More*, however, exhibits the surest indications of Shakespearian authorship just where the claim of all the other doubtful plays breaks down; that is, when we judge it dramatically rather than poetically, giving less regard to the manner and more to the matter. The 172 lines in question say precisely what we should expect Shakespeare, the man and dramatist,

¹ herring.

² IV. ii.

³ ll. 58-63.

ll. 80-172.

⁴ e.g. 'And you in ruff of your opynions clothd,' l. 99.

'Your noyce

Hath chidd downe all the maiestie of England.' 92-3, &c.

to say; we have here the same attitude toward the mob—half good-natured laughter, half scorn and distrust—and the same eloquent championship of law and order against anarchic tendencies, which appear so consistently throughout the genuine works.

Moreover, the 'insurrection scene' satisfies fully the almost decisive test of utility. Whereas the so-called Shakespearian portion of *Edward III* splits the play into two irreconcilable halves, and the analogous scenes in *The Two Noble Kinsmen* seldom touch at all the dramatic crises, which are regularly left to the pen of Fletcher, the author of the 'insurrection scene' in *Sir Thomas More* has turned his attention to the crucial point in the drama, and has revised it in just the way which best answers the requirements both of stage effect and of managerial prudence. It is not too much to say of this scene, by way of summary, that it is exactly the sort of scene we should expect Shakespeare to write, had he been called upon to revise the play, full of his well-known sentiments, and expressed in a style which is very remarkably like his own during the period 1590-5.

If these lines are really by Shakespeare, we have a most interesting illustration of the method of composition during his early maturity. The frequent interlineations and substitutions of one phrase for another show how the work took form as it proceeded, and make it evident that the sheet of paper on which this scene is written in the Harleian MS. contains the author's first draft, set down line by line as the passage evolved itself in his brain. In the final version, ll. 132 ff. read as follows:

'Wash your foule mynds with teares, and those same handes,	
That you lyke rebells lyft against the peace,	
Lift vp for peace, and your vnreuerent knees,	134
Make them your feet to kneele to be forgyven!	135
Tell me but this; what rebell captaine,	
As mutynies ar incident, by his name	
Can still the rout?' &c.	

These fine lines were not arrived at without difficulty. In their first form there was a pause after 'feet' in 135, after which the poet wrote:

'To kneele to be forgyven	
Is safer warrs then euer you can make	
Whose discipline is ryot, why euen your warrs	3
Cannot proceed but by obedience; what rebell captaine,' &c.	

This failed to satisfy him and caused him an obvious struggle, before it could be remodelled to his taste. First he deleted 'warrs' at the end of the third line and wrote instead 'hurly', apparently because of the presence of 'warrs' in the preceding line. Then, as a substitute for 'why . . . hurly' he has written above 'in in to yr obedience', which in turn is lined out with all the rest, to be replaced by the single half-line, 'Tell me but this.' At the same time, apparently, the pause in 123 was shifted from the middle to the end of the line.

Of the other scenes, possibly written in Hand D, only the soliloquy of More¹

¹ III. ii, ll. 1-21.

and the comic Faulkner passages¹ seem at all worthy of Shakespeare. They, however, may doubtless be attributed to him, without excessive temerity, as careless revisionary work, fundamentally similar in style and tone to his genuine performances, but naturally more hasty and somewhat less spirited. II. iii, the Erasmus part of III. ii, and the whole of III. iii, must be allowed to be decidedly un-Shakespearian; but of the last two of these passages it is quite certain, and it is extremely probable of the first, that the person who transcribed them in Hand D (?) was not in any real sense their author. The two Erasmus bits of III. ii (ll. 22-47, and 142-240), and the two Faulkner bits (ll. 48-141 and 241-end), alternate with each other and are not easily separated. From the scraps of the old version of the scene in Hand A, which are still legible, it appears that the Erasmus part was largely copied with only casual embellishments by the reviser, while the Faulkner part is remodelled and immensely improved. Thus the Erasmus passages are basically the work of the original author of the play and have been rewritten in Hand D, with merely incidental improvements, because they are wedged into the same scene with the Faulkner episode to which the reviser gave serious attention.

The brief and tame Scene 3 of the third act is copied in Hand D (?) verbatim, except for the insertion of the single word 'hether', from the original draft written in Hand C just after iv. i. It is clear that scribe C, having added to iv. i the final lines 310-68, used the remaining half-sheet of paper for the sketch of a much-needed connecting scene between the third act and the fourth. The deletions prove the priority of this copy of the scene to that in Hand D (?). Line 5, for instance, was first written: 'As sent to tell your lordship of his cominge.' Then the first two words were deleted, and the last three replaced by 'that they ar at hand', which later was also scratched out in favour of the final reading: 'of ther neer aproche.' Scribe D has merely copied this scene in its final form, inserting 'hether' in line 3 for the sake of the metre, and has pasted his copy where the scene obviously belongs—at the end of Act III. What is certainly true of the Erasmus parts in III. ii, and of III. iii, is in the highest degree likely of II. iii, the only other mediocre scene in Hand D (?). Here, too, the scribe seems to have been not the author, but merely the theatrical arranger, though, from the incomplete state of the MS., it is not possible in this case to compare the revised version with the original.

Setting these scenes aside, then, we are left with the first 172 lines of II. iv, and three passages from III. ii (ll. 1-21, 48-141, 241-282), all of which are written in Hand D (?) and are in large measure composed by the writer. Through these three hundred lines we meet the same general characteristics, though they display themselves in greater freedom and grandeur in the completely new-cast 'insurrection scene' than in the merely revised and elaborated passages of III. ii.

When we consider this part of *Sir Thomas More* in its poetic, and particularly in its dramatic and personal aspects, taking into account the play's probable

¹ III. ii, ll. 48-141, 241-282.

date and the probable company by which it was acted, it is hardly possible to withstand the conviction that if Shakespeare was ever concerned with any of the apocryphal plays, then surely it was with this.

Of the body of the play little need be said, though *Sir Thomas More* ranks high among the productions of its decade. Lack of unity is a defect inherent in its style of composition, but the absence of anything like a consecutive plot is to some extent atoned for by the effectiveness of More's genial character. The really attractive personality of the central figure, and the genuine spirit of light-heartedness which inspires even the tragic scenes, are two merits covering a multitude of imperfections, and raising *Sir Thomas More* far above the flatness of *Oldcastle* and *Cromwell*. In no work of the period do we get a more vivid portrayal of the management of an aristocratic household. The dinner to the Lord Mayor, the picture of More in the midst of his family circle, and the glimpse behind the scenes of a Tudor morality¹ are charming bits of domesticity which it would not be easy to parallel in the range of Elizabethan dramatic literature.

The main source of the drama is doubtless Hall's Chronicle, from which Dyce quotes illustrative excerpts; however, the story of More's life and death was such common property in the reign of Elizabeth that it is unsafe perhaps to fix upon any one authority. I have found an account of the fight in Pannier Alley, and of the episode of the long-haired Faulkner (III. ii) in Fox's Book of Martyrs (ed. 1684, II, 431), where both incidents are related in connexion with Thomas Cromwell. The stock account of More's execution, very much as it appears in the play, will be found in the same work (II, 294). The authorship of *Sir Thomas More* in its first form has been assigned to Lodge, whose doubtful claim is favoured by Fleay and Hopkinson.²

A few words remain to be said regarding the editorial history of the *Shakespeare Apocrypha*. Of the fourteen plays here printed, all but the recently discovered *Sir Thomas More* have suffered at the hands of late sixteenth and seventeenth-century editors. During the period which began with Kirkman³ and culminated with Malone, Capell, and Steevens, critical energies were engaged here as elsewhere, in the well-meant but mischievous task of levelling out grammatical archaisms, and normalizing the frequently rough or irregular flow of the lines.

¹ It may be remarked that the play here presented (IV. i) has only its name in common with the *Marriage of Wit and Wisdom*, edited for the Shakespeare Society by Halliwell in 1846. The morality of Luggins and his companions is, as Mr. Fleay and others have pointed out, a medley of *Lusty Juventus* and *The Disobedient Child*. The real *Mariage of wyt and wisdom* appears on the Stationers' Register as the first of a list of books transferred from Th. Marshe, deceased, to Th. Orwyn, June 23, 1591. Cf. Arber's *Transcript*, ii, 275b.

² Mr. Fleay (*Life of Sh.*, 292-3; *Biog. Chr. Eng. Dr.*, ii. 312, 313) identifies *Sir Thomas More* with the play called *Abuses*, which, we are told, contained a comedy and a tragedy, and which was acted by the Children of Paul's before James I and the King of Denmark on July 30, 1606. This is a guess pure and simple.

³ Circa 1660.

Under this régime, which shows itself almost at its worst in the emendations of the modern German critics Delius, Moltke, and Elze, the present plurals in -s, for example, and such expressions as 'thou was' ¹ disappeared, while 'the *hugie* monsters' of *Locrine* ² reappeared as 'the *hugest* monsters'. At the same time, the frequent nine-syllable lines of the originals, and the lines in which words like 'grace,' 'fear,' 'lord,' were pronounced in two syllables, were made arithmetically orthodox by the insertion of some colourless monosyllable. Thus in *Cromwell*, ³ instead of the correct old reading,

'Well hath your Grace said, my Lord of *Norffolke* ;
Therefore let vs presently to *Lambeth*.'

we find in Malone's and every succeeding text :

'Well hath your grace said, my *good* lord of Norfolk :
Therefore let us *go* presently to Lambeth.'

In the last two acts of this one play thirty-four words have been thus unwarrantably inserted, and the number of omissions is almost as great.

Only within the last few decades has any attempt been made to purge the text of the apocryphal plays of the impurities which all had accumulated during the long period of careless or ill-advised editing. Even since the beginning of the nineteenth century, edition after edition has reprinted the insipid texts of the later quartos and Malone, or has differed only in the incorporation of yet other unnecessary emendations. For two hundred years there has not appeared a reliable version of *Locrine*, *Mucedorus*, *Sir John Oldcastle*, *Thomas Lord Cromwell*, *The London Prodigal*, *The Puritan*, or *A Yorkshire Tragedy*—and that, too, notwithstanding the fact that all these plays, except *Mucedorus*, are included in the third and fourth Shakespeare folios, and that all of them in their garbled form have been many times reprinted.

The other seven plays have in recent times been edited from the original quarto texts, with varying accuracy. Undoubtedly the most valuable of these editions are the standard texts of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* and *Sir Thomas More*, by Littledale and Dyce respectively. *Arden of Feversham* has been carefully edited by Mr. Bullen, and, independently, by the indefatigable German scholars, Warnke and Proescholdt, to whom we owe also editions of *Edward III*, *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*, *The Birth of Merlin*, *Fair Em*, and *Mucedorus*.

The value of the texts by Warnke and Proescholdt differs considerably. The earliest, that of *Mucedorus*, cannot be accepted as a critical edition at all, though well provided with *apparatus criticus* and laboriously prepared. Of the many quartos only the eighth has been consulted at first hand, and the editors have made the fatal mistake of adopting, as the readings of the first and third quartos respectively, what are in reality the silent emendations of Hazlitt and Collier.

Fair Em, the second of the plays edited by Warnke and Proescholdt, is better

¹ *Edward III*, i. i. 106.

² i. i. 238.

³ iv. v. 115-16.

⁴ This so-called third quarto of Collier's probably never existed ; cf. p. xxiv.

done. The spelling is not modernized, as in their text of *Mucedorus*, and the two old quartos have really been collated. Yet numberless small corrections are required to render this edition at all authoritative. In some way, which it would be difficult to explain, the orthography and variant readings of the two quartos have been so mixed that the resultant text gives no faithful representation of either. The editors appear to have profited by experience, for they have had much more success with the other four plays published by them; namely, *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*, *Edward III*, *The Birth of Merlin*, and *Arden of Feversham*. In these editions the text of the earliest quarto is in each case pretty faithfully preserved, while the list of variant readings is full and, on the whole, exact. As might be expected, in transcribing from the originals a good many unintentional deviations in spelling have been made, and occasional errors in more important matters require correction. It is to be regretted that conjectural emendations by Professor Elze and other modern critics have so frequently been admitted into the text without absolute necessity. On the whole, however, these editions deserve the favourable opinions they have received on many hands.

ADDENDA

To No. IV of the Bibliography should be added the following:

44* (p. 451) GAUD, W. S., *The Authorship of Locrine*, Modern Philology, vol. i, pp. 409-22.

Peele's authorship defended.

63* (p. 452) NEUBNER, ALFRED, *Missachtete Shakespeare-Dramen. Eine literar-historisch-kritische Untersuchung*, Berlin, 1907.

General discussion of the doubtful plays and of others.

THE
LAMENTA-
BLE AND TRUE TRA-
GEDIE OF M. AR-
DEN OF FEVERSHAM
IN KENT.

*Who was most wickedlye murdered, by
the meanes of his disloyall and wanton
wyfe, who for the loue she bare to one
Mosbie, hyred two desperat ruf-
fins Blackwill and Shakbag,
to kill him.*

Wherin is shewed the great mal-
lice and discimulation of a wicked wom-
man, the vnsatiabie desire of filthie lust
and the shamefull end of all
murderers.

*Imprinted at London for Edward
White, dwelling at the lyttle North
dore of Paules Church at
the signe of the
Gun, 1592.*



Q 1 = Quarto of 1592

Q 2 = „ „ 1599

Q 3 = „ „ 1633

J = Jacob, 1770

T = Tyrrell, 1851

D = Delius, 1855

Bull. = Bullen, 1887

WP = Warnke and Proescholdt, 1888

Bayne = Temple Dramatists edition, 1897

pr. ed. = present editor

THE TRAGEDY OF M. ARDEN OF FEVERSHAM

(PERSONS REPRESENTED.

Mr. ARDEN, of Feversham.

FRANCKLIN, his friend.

MOSBIE.

CLARKE, a Painter.

ADAM FOWLE, Landlord of the Flower-de-Luce.

BRADSHAW, a Goldsmith.

MICHAELL, ARDEN'S Servant.

GREENE.

RICHARD REEDE, a Sailor.

BLACK WILL ; Murderers
SHAKBAG

A Prentice.

A Ferryman.

LORD CHEINY, and his Men.

Mayor of Feversham, and Watch.

ALICE, Arden's Wife.

SUSAN, Mosbie's Sister.

The Scene : FEVERSHAM, LONDON, and there between.)

(ACT I.

A Room in Arden's House.)

Enter Arden, and Francklin.

Franklin. Arden, cheere vp thy spirits and
droup no more:

My gracious Lord, the Duke of Sommerset,

Hath frely giuen to thee and to thy heyres,

By letters patents from his Maiesty,

All the lands of the Abby of Feuershame. 5

Heer are the deedes,

Sealed and subscribed with his name and the
kings:

Read them, and leaue this melancholy moode.

Arden. Francklin, thy loue prolongs my
weary lyfe;

And but for thee how odious were this lyfe, 10

That shoues me nothing but torments my
soule,

And those foule obiects that offend myne eies!

Which makes me wish that for this vale of
Heauen

The earth hung ouer my heede and couerd mee.

Loue letters past twixt Mosbie and my Wyfe, 15

And they haue preuie meetings in the Towne:

Nay, on his finger did I spy the Ring

Which at our Marriage day the Preest put on.

Can any greefe be halfe so great as this?

Fran. Comfort thy selfe, sweete freend:
it is not strange 20

That women will be false and wauering.

Arden. I, but to doat on such a one as hee
Is monstrous, Francklin, and intollerable.

Dram. Personae first in T Act I. . House add. T
6, 7 One line Qq 15 past Qq : pass Bull. 18 day
om. Q 3

Francklin. Why, what is he?

Arden. A Botcher, and no better at the
first; 25

Who, by base brocage getting some small
stock,

Crept into seruice of a noble man,

And by his seruile flattery and fawning

Is now become the steward of his house,

And brauely iets it in his silken gowne. 30

Fran. No noble man will countnaunce such
a pesant.

Arden. Yes, the Lord Clifford, he that loues
not mee.

But through his fauour let not him grow
proude;

For were he by the Lord Protector backt,

He should not make me to be pointed at. 35

I am by birth a gentle man of bloode,

And that iniurious riball, that attempts

To vyolate my deare wyues chastitie,

(For deare I holde hir loue, as deare as heauen

Shall on the bed which he thinks to defile 40

See his disseuered ioints and sinewes torne,

Whylst on the planchers pants his weary body,

Smeard in the channels of his lustfull bloode.

Fran. Be patient, gentle freend, and learne
of me

To ease thy grieffe and saue her chastitye: 45

Intreat her faire; sweete words are fittest
engines

To race the flint walles of a womans breast.

In any case be not too Jelyouse,

Nor make no question of her loue to thee;

But, as securely, presently take horse, 50

And ly with me at London all this tearme;

49 no] a D

For women, when they may, will not,
But, beeing kept back, straight grow out-
ragious.

Arden. Though this abhorres from reason,
yet ile try it,
And call her forth and presently take leaue. 55
How! *Ales!*

Heere ente(r)s ales.

Ales. Husband, what meane you to get vp
so earely?
Sommer nights are short, and yet you ryse ere
day.

Had I beene wake, you had not risen so soone.

Ard. Sweet loue, thou knowst that we two,
Ouidlike, 60

Haue often chid the morning when it gan to
peepe,

And often wisht that darke nights purblind
steedes

Would pull her by the purple mantle back,
And cast her in the Ocean to her loue.

But this night, sweete *Ales*, thou hast kild my
hart: 65

I heard thee cal on *Mosbie* in thy sleepe.

Ales. Tis lyke I was asleepe when I nam'd
him,

For beeing awake he comes not in my
thoughts.

Arden. I, but you started vp and suddenly,
In steede of him, caught me about the necke. 70

Ales. In steede of him? why, who was
there but you?

And where but one is, how can I mistake?

Fran. *Arden*, leaue to urdge her ouer-
farre.

Arden. Nay, loue, there is no credit in a
drame;

Let it suffice I know thou louest me well. 75

Ales. Now I remember where vpon it came:
Had we no talke of *Mosbie* yesternight?

Fra. Mistres *Ales*, I hard you name him
once or twice.

Ales. And thereof came it, and therefore
blame not me.

Arden. I know it did, and therefore let it
passe. 80

I must to London, sweete *Ales*, presently.

Ales. But tell me, do you meane to stay
there long?

Arden. No longer there till my affaires be
done.

Fran. He will not stay aboue a month at
most.

55-6 One line Qq 57 get vp] rise Q 3 59 rise Qq
61 Haue chid Bull. 67 when nam'd Q 3 68 in] to
Q 3

Ales. A moneth? aye me! Sweete *Arden*,
come againe 85

Within a day or two, or els I die.

Arden. I cannot long be from thee, gentle
Ales.

Whilest *Michel* fetch our horses from the field,
Franklin and I will down vnto the key;

For I haue certaine goods there to vnload. 90

Meanwhile prepare our breakfast, gentle *Ales*;

For yet ere noone wele take horse and away.

[*Exeunt Arden & Francklin.*

Ales. Ere noone he meanes to take horse
and away!

Sweete newes is this. Oh that some ayrie
spirit

Would in the shape and liknes of a horse 95

Gallope with *Arden* crosse the Ocean,

And throw him from his backe into the waues!

Sweete *Mosbie* is the man that hath my hart:

And he vsurpes it, having nought but this,

That I am tyed to him by marriage. 100

Loue is a God, and mariage is but words;

And therefore *Mosbies* title is the best.

Tushel! whether it be or no, he shall be mine,

In spite of him, of *Hymen*, and of rytes.

Here enters Adam of the Flourdeluce.

And here comes *Adam* of the flourdeluce: 105

I hope he brings me tydings of my loue.

—How now, *Adam*, what is the newes with
you?

Be not affraid: my husband is now from home.

Adam. He whome you wot of, *Mosbie*,

Mistres *Ales*,

Is come to towne, and sends you word by mee

In any case you may not visit him. 111

Ales. Not visit him?

Adam. No, nor take no knowledge of his
beeing heere.

Ales. But tell me, is he angree or dis-
pleased?

Adam. Should seeme so, for he is won-
drous sad. 115

Ales. Were he as mad as rauing *Hercules*,
He see him, I, and were thy house of force,

These hands of mine should race it to the
ground,

Vnles that thou wouldst bring me to my loue.

Adam. Nay, and you be so impatient, He
be gone. 120

Ales. Stay, *Adam*, stay; thou wert wont to
be my frend.

Aske *Mosbie* how I haue incurred his wrath;
Beare him from me these paire of siluer dice,

With which we plaid for kisses many a tyme,
And when I lost, I wan, and so did hee 125

(Such winning and such losing *Joue* send me);

And bid him, if his loue doo not decline,
(To) come this morning but along my dore,
And as a stranger but salute me there:
This may he doo without suspect or feare. 130
Adam. Ile tell him what you say, and so
farewell. [*Exit Adam.*]

Ales. Doo, and one day Ile make amends
for all.—

I know he loues me well, but dares not come,
Because my husband is so Jelious, 134
And these my narrow prying neighbours blab
Hinder our meetings when we would conferre.
But, if I liue, that block shall be removed,
And, Mosbie, thou that comes to me by stelth,
Shalt neither feare the biting speach of men
Nor Ardens lookes: as surely shall he die 140
As I abhorre him and loue onely thee.

Here enters Michaell.

How now, Michaell, whether are you going?

Michaell. To fetch my masters nagge.

I hope youle thinke on mee.

Ales. I; but, Michaell, see you keepe your
oath, 145

And be as secret as you are resolute.

Michaell. Ile see he shall not liue aboute a
weeke.

Ales. On that condition, Michaell, here is
my hand:

None shall haue Mosbies sister but thy selfe.

Michaell. I vnderstand, the Painter heere
hard by 150

Hath made reporte that he and Sue is sure.

Ales. There's no such matter, Michaell;
beleuee it not.

Michaell. But he hath sent a dagger sticking
in a hart,

With a verse or two stollen from a painted
cloath,

The which I heere the wench keepes in her
chest. 155

Well, let her kepe it: I shall finde a fellow
That can both write and read and make rime
too.

And if I doo — well, I say no more:

Ile send from London such a taunting letter

As (she) shall eat the hart he sent with salt
And fling the dagger at the Painters head. 161

Ales. What needes all this? I say that
Susan's thine.

Michaell. Why, then I say that I will kill
my master,

Or anything that you will haue me doo.

Ales. But, Michaell, see you doo it cun-
ningly. 165

128 To add. Q 3 135 narrow] narrow Q 1 141
onely] none but Q 2 160 she add. D

Michaell. Why, say I should be tooke, ile
nere confesse

That you know any thing; and Susan, being
a Maide,

May begge me from the gallous of the Shrieve.

Ales. Truste not to that, Michaell.

Michaell. You can not tell me, I haue
seene it, I. 170

But, mistres, tell her, whether I liue or die,
Ile make her more woorth then twenty Pain-
ters can;

For I will rid myne elder brother away,

And then the farme of Bolton is mine owne.

Who would not venture vpon house and land,
When he may haue it for a right downe blowe?

Here enters Mosbie.

Ales. Yonder comes Mosbie. Michaell, get
thee gone, 177

And let not him nor any knowe thy drifts.

[*Exit Michaell.*]

Mosbie, my loue!

Mosbie. Away, I say, and talke not to me
now. 180

Ales. A word or two, sweete hart, and
then I will.

Tis yet but early daies, thou needest not feare.

Mosbie. Where is your husband?

Ales. Tis now high water, and he is at the
key.

Mos. There let him be; hence forward know
me not. 185

Ales. Is this the end of all thy solemne
oathes?

Is this the frute thy reconcilement buds?

Haue I for this giuen thee so many fauours,

Incurd my husbands hate, and, out alas,

Made shipwrack of myne honour for thy
sake, 190

And doest thou say 'hence forward know me
not'?

Remember, when I lockt the in my closet,

What were thy words and mine; did we not
both

Decree to murder Arden in the night?

The heauens can witnes, and the world can
tell, 195

Before I saw that falshoode looke of thine,
Fore I was tangled with thy tysing speach,

Arden to me was dearer then my soule, —

And shall be still: base pesant, get thee gone,
And boast not of thy conquest ouer me, 200

Gotten by witch-craft and meere sorcery!

For what hast thou to countenance my loue,
Beeing discended of a noble house,

And matcht already with a gentleman

174 Bocton J 187 this om. Q 3

Whose seruant thou maist be? — and so
farewell. 205

Mos. Vngentle and vnkinde Ales, now I see
That which I euer feard, and finde too trew:
A womans loue is as the lightning flame, 208
Which euen in bursting forth consumes it selfe.
To trye thy constancie haue I beene strange:
Would I had neuer tryed, but liued in hope!

Ales. What needs thou try me whom thou
neuer found false?

Mos. Yet pardon me, for loue is Jelious.

Ales. So list the Sailer to the Marmajds
song,

So lookes the trauellour to the Basiliske: 215
I am content for to be reconcilde,
And that, I know, will be mine ouerthrow.

Mos. Thine ouerthrow? first let the world
dissolue.

Ales. Nay, Mosbie, let me still inioue thy
loue,

And happen what will, I am resolute. 220
My sauing husband hoordes vp bagges of
gould

To make our children rich, and now is hee
Gone to vnload the goods that shall be thine,
And he and Francklin will to London straight.

Mos. To London, Ales? if thoult de rulde
by mee, 225

Weele make him sure enough for comming
there.

Ales. Ah, would we could.

Mos. I happend on a Painter yesternight,
The onely cunning man of Christendome;
For he can temper poyson with his oyle, 230
That who so lookes vpon the worke he dra wes
Shall, with the beames that issue from his
sight,

Suck vennome to his breast and slay him selfe.
Sweete Ales, he shall draw thy counterfet,
That Arden may by gaizing on it perish. 235

Ales. I, but, Mosbie, that is dangerous,

For thou, or I, or any other els,
Commig into the Chamber where it hangs,
May die.

Mos. I, but weele haue it couered with a
cloath 240

And hung vp in the studie for himselfe.

Ales. It may not be, for when the pictur's
drawne,

Arden, I know, will come and shew it me.

Mos. Feare not; weele haue that shall serve
the turne.

This is the painters house: Ile call him forth.

Ales. But, Mosbie, Ile haue no such pic-
ture, I. 246

Mos. I pray thee leaue it to my discretion.
How! Clarke!

Here enters Clarke.

O, you are an honest man of your word! you
serud me wel.

Clark. Why, sir, ile do it for you at any time,
Prouided, as you haue giuen your worde, 251
I may haue Susan Mosbie to my wife.

For, as sharpe witted Poets, whose sweete
verse

Make heauenly gods break of their Nector
draughts

And lay their eares down to the lowly earth,
Vse humble promise to their sacred Muse, 256
So we that are the Poets fauorits

Must haue a loue; I, Loue is the Painters Muse,
That makes him frame a speaking counte-
naunce,

A weeping eye that witnesses hartes griefe.
Then tell me, Master Mosbie, shall I haue hir?

Ales. Tis pittie but he should; heele vse her
well. 262

Mosbie. Clarke, heers my hand: my sister
shall be thine.

Cl. Then, brother, to requite this curtesie,

You shall command my lyfe, my skill, and all.

Ales. Ah, that thou couldst be secret. 266

Mosbie. Feare him not; leaue, I haue talkt
sufficient.

Cl. You know not me that ask such ques-
tions.

Let it suffice I know you loue him well,
And faine would haue your husband made
away: 270

Wherein, trust me, you shew a noble minde,
That rather then youle liue with him you hate
Youle venture lyfe, and die with him you loue.
The like will I do for my Susans sake.

Ales. Yet nothing could inforce me to the
deed 275

But Mosbies loue. Might I without controll
Inioue thee still, then Arden should not die:
But seeing I cannot, therefore let him die.

Mos. Enough, sweete Ales; thy kinde words
makes me melt.

Your tricke of poysoned pictures we dislyke;
Some other poyson would do better farre. 281

Ales. I, such as might be put into his broth,
And yet in taste not to be found at all.

Clarke. I know your minde, and here I
haue it for you.

Put but a dram of this into his drinke, 285
Or any kinde of broth that he shall eat,
And he shall die within an houre after.

214 lists Q 3 219 me] him Q 3 238-9 One line in
edd.

247-8 One line Qq 252 to] for Q 3 271 shew] beare
Q 3 284 it om. Q 3

Ales. As I am a gentle-woman, Clarke,
next day
Thou and Susan shall be married.
Mos. And ile mak her dowry more then ile
talk of, Clark. 290
Clarke. Yonder's your husband. Mosbie, ile
be gone.

Here enters Arden and Francklin.

Ales. In good time see where my husband
comes.

Maister Mosbie, aske him the question your
selfe. [Exit Clarke.

Mos. Maister Arden, teing at London yes-
ter night,

The Abby lands, whereof you are now possest,
Were offred me, on some occasion, 296

By Greene, one of sir Antony Agers men:

I pray you, sir, tell me, are not the lands yours?
Hath any other interest herein?

Arden. Mosby, that question wele decyde
anon. 300

Ales, make ready my brekfast, I must hence.

[Exit Ales.

As for the lands, mosbie, they are mine

By letters patents from his Maiesty.

But I must haue a Mandat for my wyfe;

They say you seeke to robbe me of her loue:

Villaine, what makes thou in her company? 306
Shees no companion for so base a groome.

Mosbie. Arden, I thought not on her, I
came to thee;

But rather then I pocket vp this wrong —

Francklin. What will you doo, sir? 310

Mos. Reuenge it on the proudest of you
both.

[Then Arden drawes forth Mosbies sword.

Arden. So, sirha; you may not weare a
sword,

The statute makes against artificers;

I warrand that I doo. Now vse your bodkin,

Your spanish needle, and your pressing Iron,

For this shall go with me; and marke my
words, 316

You Goodman botcher, tis to you I speake:

The next time that I take thee neare my
house,

In steede of Legs Ile make thee crall on stumps.

Mos. Ah, maister Arden, you haue iniurde
mee: 320

I doo appeale to God and to the world.

Fran. Why, canst thou deny thou wert a
botcher once?

Mos. Measure me what I am, not what
I was.

Ar. Why, what art thou now but a Veluet
drudge,

A cheating steward, and base minded pesant?

Mos. Arden, now thou hast belcht and
vomited 326

The rancorous venome of thy mis-swolne hart,
Heare me but speake: as I intend to liue

With God and his elected saints in heauen,

I neuer meant more to solicit her; 330

And that she knowes, and all the world shall
see.

I loued her once, sweete Arden, pardon me,

I could not chuse, her beauty fyred my heart;

But time hath quenched these ouerraging coles:

And, Arden, though I now frequent thy house,

Tis for my sisters sake, her waiting maid, 336

And not for hers. Maigest thou enioy her long:

Hell fyre and wrathfull vengeance light on me,

If I dishonor her or iniure thee.

Ard. Mosbie, with these thy protestations

The deadly hatred of my hart is appeased, 341

And thou and Ile be freends, if this proue trew.

As for the base tearmes I gaue thee late,

Forget them, Mosbie: I had cause to speake,

When all the Knights and gentlemen of Kent

Make common table talke of her and thee. 346

Mos. Who liues that is not toucht with
slanderous tongues?

Fra. Then, Mosbie, to eschew the speache
of men,

Upon whose generall brute all honor hangs,
Forbeare his house. 350

Ard. Forbeare it! nay, rather frequent it
more:

The worlde shall see that I distrust her not.

To warne him on the sudden from my house

Were too confirme the rumour that is growne.

Mos. By my faith, sir, you say trew, 355

And therefore will I sojourne here a while,

Untill our enemies haue talkt their fill;

And then, I hope, theile cease, and at last
confesse

How causeles they haue iniurde her and me.

Ard. And I will ly at London all this tearme
To let them see how light I wey their words. 361

Here enters Ales.

Ales. Husband, sit down; your brekfast
will be could.

Ard. Come, M(aister) Mosbie, will you sit
with vs?

Mos. I can not eat, but ile sit for company.

Ard. Sirra Michael, see our horse be ready.

Ales. Husband, why pause ye? why eat
you not? 366

299 therein Q 3 303 from] of Q 3 309 I] ut Q 3
314 doo, now Q 1

335 now om. Q 3 337 hers, maigest Q 1 355 By faith
my sir Q 4 S. D. new scene T 365 our] your Q 2, 3
366 you] ye Q 3

Arden. I am not well; thers something in this broth
That is not wholesome: didst thou make it, Ales?
Ales. I did, and thats the cause it likes not you.

Then she throws down the broth on the ground.

Thers nothing that I do can please your taste:
You were best to say I would haue poysoned you. 371

I cannot speak or cast aside my eye,
But he Imagines I haue slept awry.
Heres he that you cast in my teeth so oft:
Now will I be conuincd or purge my selfe. 375
I charge thee speake to this mistrustfull man,
Thou that wouldst see me hange, thou,
Mosbye, thou:

What fauour hast thou had more then a kisse
At comming or departing from the Towne?

Mos. You wrong your selfe and me to cast these douts: 380

Your louing husband is not Jelious.

Arden. Why, gentle mistres Ales, cannot I
Be ill, but youle accuse your selfe?
Frackline, thou, haste! a boxe of Methri-
date:

Ile take a lytle to preuent the worst. 385

Fran. Do so, and let vs presently take horse:

My lyfe for yours, ye shall do well enough.

Ales. Giue me a spoone, Ile eat of it my selfe:

Would it were full of poyson to the brim,
Then should my cares and troubles haue an end. 390

Was euer silly woman so tormented?

Arden. Be patient, sweete loue; I mistrust not thee.

Ales. God will reuenge it, Arden, if thou doest;

For neuer woman lou'd her husband better
Then I do thee. 395

Arden. I know it, sweete Ales; cease to complaine,

Least that in teares I answer thee againe.

Fran. Come, leaue this dallying, and let vs away.

Ales. Forbeare to wound me with that bitter word;

Arden shall go to London in my armes. 400

Arden. Loth am I to depart, yet I must go.

Ales. Wilt thou to London, then, and leaue me here?

Ah, if thou loue me, gentle Arden, stay:
Yet, if thy busines be of great Import,
Go if thou wilt, Ile beare it as I may; 405

382 ends ill edd. 394-5 One line Qq 400 mine Q3

But write from London to me euery weeke,
Nay, euery day, and stay no longer there
Then thou must nedes, least that I die for sorrow.

Arden. Ile write vnto thee euery other tide:
And so farewell, sweete Ales, till we meete next.

Ales. Farewell, Husband, seeing youle haue it so; 411

And, M^aister Francklin, seeing you take him hence,

In hope youle hasten him home, Ile giue you this.

and then she kisseth him.

Fran. And if he stay, the fault shall not be mine.

Mosbie, farewell, and see you keepe your oath

Mosbie. I hope he is not Jelious of me now. 416

Arden. No, Mosbie, no: hereafter thinke of me

As of your dearest frend, and so farewell.

[*Exeunt Arden, Franklin, & Michael.*

Ales. I am glad he is gone; he was about to stay,

But did you marke me then how I brake of?

Mosbie. I, Ales, and it was cunningly performed. 421

But what a villaine is this painter Clarke!

Ales. Was it not a goodly poyson that he gaue?

Why, he's as well now as he was before.

It should haue bene some fine confection 425
That might haue giuen the broth some daintie taste:

This powder was to grosse and populos.

Mosbie. But had he eaten but three spoone-fulles more,

Then had he died and our loue continued.

Ales. Why, so it shall, Mosbie, albeit he liue. 430

Mosbie. It is vnpossible, for I haue sworne Neuer hereafter to sollicite thee,

Or, whylest he liues, once more importune thee.

Ales. Thou shalt not neede, I will importune thee.

What? shall an oath make thee forsake my loue? 435

As if I haue not sworne as much my selfe

And giuen my hand vnto him in the church!
Tush, Mosbie; oathes are wordes, and words

is winde,

And winde is mutable: then, I conclude,
Tis childishnes to stand vpon an oath. 440

409 other om. Q3 417 of] on Q3 418 of om. Q3
427 populos] palpable D, later retracted 430 so...
shall om. Q3

Mos. Well, proued, Mistres Ales; yet by
your leaue
He keepe mine vnbroken whilest he liues.

Ales. I, doo, and spare not, his time is but
short;

For if thou beest as resolute as I,
Weele haue him murdered as he walkes the
streets. 445

In London many alehouse Ruffins keepe,
Which, as I heare, will murther men for gould.
They shall be soundly feed to pay him home.

Here enters Greene.

Mos. Ales, whats he that comes yonder?
knowest thou him?

Ales. Mosbie, be gone: I hope tis one that
comes 450
To put in practise our intended drifts.

[*Exit Mosbie.*

Gre. Mistres Arden, you are well met.
I am sorry that your husband is from home,
When as my purposed iourney was to him:
Yet all my labour is not spent in vaine, 455
For I suppose that you can full discourse
And flat resolute me of the thing I seeke.

Ales. What is it, maister Greene? If that
I may
Or can with safety, I will answer you.

Greene. I heard your husband hath the
grant of late, 460

Confirmed by letters patents from the king,
Of all the lands of the Abby of Fevershame,
Generally intituled, so that all former grants
Are cut of; whereof I my selfe had one,
But now my interest by that is void. 465
This is all, mistres Arden; is it trew or no?

Ales. Trew, maister Greene; the lands are
his in state,

And whatsoever leases were before
Are void for tearme of Maister Ardens lyfe;
He hath the grant vnder the Chancery seale.

Gre. Pardon me, mistres Arden, I must
speake, 471

For I am toucht. Your husband doth me wrong
To wring me from the little land I haue:

My liuing is my lyfe, onely that
Resteth remainder of my portion. 475

Desyre of welth is endles in his minde,
And he is gredy gaping still for gaine,
Nor cares he though young gentlemen do
begge,

So he may scrape and hoorde vp in his poutche.
But, seeing he hath taken my lands, He value
lyfe 480

As careles as he is carefull for to get:

448 fed *Q1* 449 him *om.* *Q3* 460 had *Q1 2, 3* 466
or] nor *Q1* 468 were *om.* *Q3*

And tell him this from me, He be reuenged,
And so as he shall wishe the Abby lands
Had rested still within their former state.

Ales. Alas, poore gentleman, I pittie you,
And wo is me that any man should want; 486
God knowes tis not my fault: but wonder not
Though he be harde to others, when to me,—
Ah, maister Greene, God knowes how I am
vsde.

Gre. Why, mistres Arden, can the crabbed
churle 490
Vse you vnkindely? respects he not your birth,
Your honorable freends, nor what you
brought?

Why, all Kent knowes your parentage and
what you are.

Ales. Ah, M(aister) Greene, be it spoken in
secret heere,

I neuer liue good day with him alone: 495
When hee is at home, then haue I froward
lookes,

Hard words and blowes, to mend the match
withall;

And though I might content as good a man,
Yet doth he keepe in euery corner trulles;

And, weary with his trugges at home, 500
Then rydes he straight to London; there, for
sooth,

He reuelles it among such filthie ones
As counsels him to make away his wyfe.

Thus liue I dayly in continuall feare,
In sorrow, so despairing of redres 505

As euery day I wish with hartly prayer
That he or I were taken forth the worlde.

Gre. Now trust me, mistres Ales, it greeueth
me

So faire a creature should be so abused.
Why, who would haue thought the ciuill sir
so sollen? 510

He lookes so smoothly: now, fye vpon him,
Churle!

And if he liue a day, he liues too long.
But frolick, woman, I shall be the man

Shall set you free from all this discontent;
And if the Churle deny my intereste 515

And will not yelde my lease into my hand,
He paye him home, what euer hap to me.

Ales. But speake you as you thinke?

Gre. I, Gods my witnes, I meane plaine
dealing,

For I had rather die then lose my land. 520

Ales. Then, maister Greene, be counsailed
by me:

Indaunger not your selfe for such a Churle,
But hyre some Cutter for to cut him short,
And heer's ten pound to wager them withall;

503 counsell *Q3*

When he is dead, you shall haue twenty more,
And the lands whereof my husband is posset
Shall be intytled as they were before. 527

Gre. Will you keepe promise with me?

Ales. Or count me false and periurde whilst
I liue.

Gre. Then heeres my hand, Ile haue him
so dispatcht. 530

Ile vp to London straight, Ile thether poast,
And neuer rest til I haue compast it:

Till then farewell.

Ales. Good Fortune follow all your forward
thoughts, [Exit Grene.

And whosoouer doth attempt the deede, 535

A happie hand I wish, and so farewell. —

All this goes well: Mosbie, I long for thee
To let thee know all that I haue contriued.

Here enters Mosbie & Clarke.

Mos. How now, Ales, whats the newes?

Ales. Such as will content thee well, sweete
hart. 540

Mos. Well, let them passe a while, and tell
me, Ales,

How haue you dealt and tempered with my
sister?

What, will she haue my neighbour Clarke, or
no?

Ales. What, M(aister) Mosbie! let him
wooe him self:

Thinke you that maides looke not for faire
wordes? 545

Go to her, Clarke; shees all alone within;
Michaell my man is cleane out of her bookes.

Clarke. I thanke you, mistres Arden, I will
in;

And if faire Susan and I can make a gree,
You shall command me to the vttermost, 550
As farre as either goods or lyfe may stretch.

[Exit Clark.

Mos. Now, Ales, lets heare thy newes.

Ales. They be so good that I must laugh
for ioy,

Before I can begin to tell my tale.

Mos. Lets heare them, that I may laugh
for company. 555

Ales. This morning, M(aister) Greene, dick
greene I meane,

From whome my husband had the Abby land,
Came hether, railing, for to know the trueth

Whether my husband had the lands by grant.

I told him all, where at he stormd amaine
And swore he would cry quittance with the

Churle, 561

And, if he did denye his enterest,
Stabbe him, whatsoeuer did befall him selfe.

549 make agree Q 3

When as I sawe his choller thus to rise,
I whetted on the gentleman with wordes; 565
And, to conclude, Mosbie, at last we grew
To composition for my husbands death.

I gaue him ten pound to hire knaues,
By some deuise to make away the Churle;

When he is dead, he should haue twenty more
And repossesse his former lands againe. 571

On this we greed, and he is ridden straight
To London, to bring his death about.

Mos. But call you this good newes?

Ales. I, sweete hart, be they not? 575

Mos. Twere cherefull newes to hear the
churle wer dead;

But trust me, Ales, I take it passing ill
You would be so forgetfull of our state

To make recount of it to euery groome.

What? to acquaint each stranger with our
drifts, 580

Cheefely in case of murther, why, tis the way
To make it open vnto Ardens selfe

And bring thy selfe and me to ruine both.

Forewarnde, forearmde: who threats his
enemye, 585

Lends him a sword to guarde himselfe with all.

Ales. I did it for the best.

Mos. Well, seing tis don, cherey let it pas.
You know this Greene: is he not religious,

A man, I gesse, of great deuotion?

Ales. He is. 590

Mos. Then, sweete Ales, let it pas: I
haue a dryft

Will quyet all, what euer is amis.

Here enters Clarke and Susan.

Ales. How now, Clarke? haue you found
me false?

Did I not plead the matter hard for you?

Clarke. You did. 595

Mos. And what? Willt be a match?

Clarke. A match, I faith, sir: I, the day is
mine.

The Painter layes his cullours to the lyfe,
His pensel draws no shadowes in his loue.

Susan is mine. 600

Ales. You make her blushe.

Mos. What, sister, is it Clarke must be the
man?

Su. It resteth in your graunt; some words
are past,

And happely we be growne vnto a match,

If you be willing that it shall be so. 605

Mos. Ah, maister Clarke, it resteth at my
grant:

You see my sister's yet at my dispose.

But, so youle graunt me one thing I shall aske,

587 cheerefully Q 3 591 sweete Ales om. Q 3

I am content my sister shall be yours.

Clark. What is it, M(aister) Mosbie? 610

Mos. I doo remember once in secret talke
You told me how you could compound by
Arte

A crucifix impoysoned,

That who so looke vpon it should waxe blinde
And with the sent be stifeled, that ere long 615
He should dye poysond that did view it wel.
I would haue you make me such a crucifix,
And then Ile grant my sister shall be yours.

Cl. Though I am loath, because it touch-
eth lyfe,

Yet, rather or Ile leaue sweete Susans loue,
Ile do it, and with all the haste I may. 621
But for whome is it?

Ales. Leaue that to vs. Why, Clarke, is it
possible

That you should paint and draw it out your
selfe,

The culloours beeing balefull and impoysoned,
And no waies preiudice your selfe with all? 626

Mos. Well questioned, Ales: Clarke, how
answer you that?

Clarke. Very easily: Ile tell you straight
How I doo worke of these Impoysoned drugs.
I fasten on my spectacles so close 630

As nothing can any way offend my sight;
Then, as I put a leafe within my nose,
So put I rubarbe to auoid the smell,
And softly as another worke I paint.

Mos. Tis very well; but against when shall
I haue it? 635

Cl. Within this ten dayes.

Mos. Twill serue the turne.
Now, Ales, lets in and see what cheere you
keepe.

I hope, now M(aister) Arden is from home,
Youle giue me leaue to play your husbands
part.

Ales. Mosbie, you know, whose maister of
my hart, 640

He well may be the master of the house.

[*Exeunt.*]

(ACT II.

SCENE I.

Country between Feversham and London.)

Here enters Greene and Bradshaw.

Brad. See you them that coms yonder,
M(aister) Greene?

Gren. I, very well: doo you know them?

Here enters Blacke Will and Shakebagge.

620 Ile] I Q3 625 Two lines Qq, dic. after Ales 636
Two lines Qq Act II. etc. add. T

Brad. The one I knowe not, but he seemes
a knaue

Cheefly for bearing the other company;

For such a slaue, so vile a roge as he, 5
Lyues not againe vpon the earth.

Black-will is his name. I tell you, M(aister)
Greene,

At Bulloine he and I were fellow souldiers,
Where he plaide such pranks,
As all the Campe feard him for his villany: 10
I warrant you he beares so bad a minde
That for a croune heele murther any man.

Gre. The fitter is he for my purpose,
mary.

Will. How now, fellow Bradshaw? Whe-
ther away so earely?

Brad. O Will, times are changed: no fel-
lows now, 15

Though we were once together in the field;
Yet thy freend to doo thee any good I can.

Will. Why, Bradshawe, was not thou and
I Fellow-souldiers at Bulloine, wher I was a
corporall and thou but a base mercenarye
groom? No fellowes now! because you are
a goldsmith and haue a lytle plate in your
shoppe! You were gladde to call me 'fellow
Will', and with a cursy to the earth 'One
snatch, good corporall', when I stole the halfe
Oxe from John the viltler, and domineer'd with
it amongst good fellowes in one night. 27

Brad. I, Will, those dayes are past with me.

Will. I, but they be not past with me, for
I kepe that same honorable mind still. Good
neighbour Bradshaw, you are too proude to
be my fellow; but were it not that I see more
company comming down the hill, I would be
fellowes with you once more, and share
Crownes with you to. But let that pas, and
tell me whether you goe. 36

Brad. To London, Will, about a peece of
seruice,

Wherein happily thou maist pleasure me.

Will. What is it?

Brad. Of late Lord Cheiny lost some plate,
Which one did bring and sould it at my shoppe,
Saying he serued sir Antony Cooke. 42

A search was made, the plate was found with
me,

And I am bound to answer at the syse.

Now, Lord Cheiny solemnly vowes, 45
If law will serue him, hele hang me for his
plate.

Now I am going to London vpon hope
To finde the fellow. Now, Will, I know
Thou art acquainted with such companions.

14 Two lines Qq 18-27 Verse Qq, corr. WP 29-36
Verse Qq

Will. What manner of man was he? 50

Brad. A leane faced withren knaue,
Hauke nosde and verye hollow eied,
With mightye furrowes in his stormye browes;
Long haire down his shoulders curled; 54
His Chinne was bare, but on his vpper lippe
A mutchado, which he wound about his eare.

Will. What apparell had he?

Brad. A watchet sattin doublet all to torne,
The inner side did beare the greater show;
A paire of threed-bare Veluet hose, seame rent,
A wosted stockin rent aboue the shoe, 61
A liuery cloake, but all the lace was of;
Twas bad, but yet it serued to hide the plate.

Will. Sirra Shakebagge, canst thou remem-
ber since we troud the boule at Sittingburgh,
where I broke the Tapsters head of the Lyon
with a Cudgill-sticke? 67

Shak. I, very well, Will.

Will. Why, it was with the money that the
plate was sould for. Sirra Bradshaw, what
wilt thou giue him that can telle thee who
soulded thy plate? 72

Brad. Who, I pray thee, good Will?

Will. Why, twas one Jacke Fitten. He's
now in Newgate for stealing a horse, and shall
be arrainde the next sise. 76

Brad. Why, then let Lord Cheiny seek Jack
Fitten forth,
For Ile backe and tell him who robbed him of
his plate.

This cheeres my hart; M(aister) Greene, Ile
leauye you,

For I must to the Ile of Sheppy with speede. 80

Greene. Before you go, let me intreat you
To carry this letter to mistres Arden of Feurs-
hame

And humbly recommend me to her selfe.

Brad. That will I, M(aister) Grene, and so
farewell. 84
Heere, Will, theres a Crowne for thy good
newes. [*Exit Bradshawe.*]

Will. Farewell, Bradshaw; Ile drinke no
water for thy sake whilst this lasts.—Now,
gentleman, shall we haue your company to
London?

Gre. Nay, stay, sirs: 90
A lyle more I needs muste vse your helpe,
And in a matter of great consequence,
Wherein if youle be secret and profound,
Ile giue you twenty Angels for your paines. 94

Will. How? twenty Angells? giue my fel-
low George shakbag and me twenty Angels?
And if thoult haue thy owne father slaine,

53 his om. Q3 54 his) to his Q3 64-7, 69-72, 74-6,
86-9, 95-9 Verse Qq 65 Sittingburne Q3 etc. 66 of]
at Q3 78 Ile] Ile goe Q3 90-1 One line Qq

that thou mayst inherit his land, weeke kill
him.

Shak. I, thy Mother, thy sister, thy brother,
or all thy kin. 100

Gre. Well, this it is: Arden of Feursshame
Hath highly wrongd me about the Abby land,
That no reuendge but death will serue the
turne.

Will you two kill him? heeres the Angels
downe,

And I will lay the platforme of his death. 105

Will. Plat me no platformes; giue me the
money, and ile stab him as he stands pissing
against a wall but Ile kill him.

Sha. Where is he?

Greene. He is now at London, in Aldersgate
streete. 110

Shak. He's dead as if he had beene con-
demned by an act of parliament, if once Black
Will and I sweare his death.

Gre. Here is ten pound, and when he is
dead,

Ye shall haue twenty more. 115

Will. My fingers itches to be at the pesant.
Ah, that I might be set a worke thus through
the yeere, and that murder would grow to an
occupation, that a man might without daunger
of law —: zounds, I warrant I should be
warden of the company. Come, let vs be
going, and wele bate at Rochester, where Ile
giue thee a gallon of Sack to hansell the match
with all. [*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE II.

London. A Street near St. Paul's.)

Here enters Michael.

Mich. I haue gotten suche a letter as will
touche the Painter: and thus it is:

Here enters Arden and Francklin and heares
Michaell read this letter.

' My duetye remembred, Mistres Susan, hop-
ing in God you be in good health, as I Michaell
was at the making hereof. This is to certifie
you that as the Turtle true, when she hath lost
her mate, sitteth alone, so I, mourning for your
absence, do walk vp and down Poules til one
day I fell a sleepe and lost my maisters Panto-
phelles. Ah, mistres Susan, abbolishe that
paltry Painter, cut him off by the shinnes with
a frowning looke of your crabed countenance,
& think vpon Michaell, who, druncke with the
dregges of your fauour, wil cleaue as fast to

106-8, 111-13, 116-24 Verse Qq 117 a] at Q3
Scene II. etc. add. T 1, 2 Verse Qq

your loue as a plaster of Pitch to a gald horse
back. Thus hoping you will let my passions
penetrate, or rather impetrate mercy of your
meeke hands, I end.

Yours, Michaell, or els not Michaell.

Ard. Why, you paltrie knaue, 20
Stand you here loytering, knowing my affaires,
What haste my busines craues to send to Kent?

Fran. Faith, frend Michaell, this is very
ill,

Knowing your maister hath no more but you,
And do ye slacke his busines for your owne? 25

Ard. Where is the letter, sirra? let me see
it.

Then he giues him the letter.

See, maister Francklin, heres proper stuffe:
Susan my maid, the Painter, and my man,
A crue of harlots, all in loue, forsooth;
Sirra, let me heare no more of this. 30
Now for thy lyfe once write to her a wordel!

Here enters Grene, Will, and Shakebag.

Wilt thou be married to so base a trull?
Tis Mosbies sister: come I once at home,
Ile rouse her from remaining in my house.
Now, M(aister) Francklin, let vs go walke in
Paules; 35

Come but a turne or two, and then away.
[*Exeunt.*]

Gre. The first is Arden, and thats his man,
The other is Francklin, Ardens dearest freend.

Will. Zounds, Ile kill them all three.

Gre. Nay, sirs, touch not his man in any
case; 40
But stand close, and take you fittest standing,
And at his comming foorth speede him:
To the Nages head, ther' is this cowards haunt.
But now Ile leaue you till the deed be don.

[*Exit Greene.*]

Sha. If he be not paid his owne, nere trust
shakebagge. 45

Wil. Sirra Shakbag, at his comming foorth
Ile runne him through, and then to the black-
freers,

And there take water and away.

Sha. Why, thats the best; but see thou
misse him not.

Wil. How can I misse him, when I thinke
on the fortye Angels I must haue more? 51

Here enters a prentise.

Prentise. Tis very late; I were best shute
vp my stall,
For heere will be ould filching, when the presse
Comes foorth of Paules.

25 for om. Q 3 31 Now Qq: Nor J etc. 34 from J
for Q 3 41 you J your Q 3 43 this om. Q 3

Then lettes he downe his window, and it breaks
Black Wils head.

Wil. Zounds, draw, Shakbag, draw, I am
almost kild. 55

Pren. Wele tame you, I warrant.

Wil. Zounds, I am tame enough already.

Here enters Arden, Fran., & Michael.

Ard. What trublesome fray or mutany is
this?

Fran. 'Tis nothing but some brabbling paltry
fray,

Deuised to pick mens pockets in the throng. 60

Ard. Ist nothing els? come, Franklin, let
vs away. [*Exeunt.*]

Wil. What mends shal I haue for my
broken head?

Pren. Mary, this mends, that if you get
you not away all the sooner, you shall be well
beaten and sent to the counter. 65

[*Exit prentise.*]

Wil. Well, Ile be gone, but looke to your
signes, for Ile pull them down all. Shakbag,
my broken head greeues me not so much as
by this meanes Arden hath escaped.

Here enters Greene.

I had a glimse of him and his companion. 70

Gre. Why, sirs, Arden's as wel as I; I met
him and Francklin going merrily to the ordi-
nary. What, dare you not do it? 73

Wil. Yes, sir, we dare do it; but, were my
consent to giue againe, we would not do it
vnder ten pound more. I value euery drop of
my blood at a french Crowne. I haue had ten
pound to steale a dogge, and we have no more
heere to kill a man; but that a bargane is a
bargane, and so foorth, you should do it your
selfe. 81

Gre. I pray thee, how came thy head broke?

Will. Why, thou seest it is broke, dost thou
not?

Sha. Standing against a staule, watching
Ardens comming, a boy let down his shop-
window and broke his head; wherevpon arose
a braul, and in the tumult Arden escapt vs
and past by vnthought on. But forberance is
no acquittance; another time wele do it, I
warrant thee. 91

Gre. I pray thee, will, make cleane thy
bloodie brow,

And let vs bethink vs on some other place
Where Arden may be met with handsomly.
Remember how deuoutly thou hast sworne 95
To kill the villaine; thinke vpon thyne oath.

55 draw, I J Q 3 63-91 Verse Qq . 74 Yes, sir, sir
Q 3

Will. Tush, I haue broken five hundred oathes!
 But wouldst thou charme me to effect this dede,
 Tell me of gould, my resolutions fee;
 Say thou seest Mosbie kneeling at my knees,
 Offering me seruice for my high attempt, 101
 And sweete Ales Arden, with a lap of crownes,
 Comes with a lowly cursy to the earth,
 Saying 'take this but for thy quarterige,
 Such yeerely tribute will I answer thee.' 105
 Why, this would steale soft metled cowardice,
 With which black Will was neuer tainted with.
 I tell thee, Greene, the forlorne trauailer,
 Whose lips are glewed with sommers parching heat,
 Nere longd so much to see a running brooke
 As I to finish Ardens Tragedy. 111
 Seest thou this goare that cleaueth to my face?
 From hence nere will I wash this bloody staine,
 Til Ardens hart be panting in my hand.
Gre. Why, thats wel said; but what saith shakbag? 115
Shak. I cannot paint my valour out with words:
 But, giue me place and opportunitie,
 Such mercy as the staruen Lyones,
 When she is dry suckt of her eager young,
 Showes to the pray that next encounters her,
 On Arden so much pitty would I take. 121
Gre. So should it faire with men of firme resolute.
 And now, sirs, seeing this accident
 Of meeting him in Paules hath no successe,
 Let vs bethinke vs on some other place 125
 Whose earth may swallow vp this Ardens bloode.
Here enters Michaell.
 Se, yonder comes his man: and wat you what?
 The foolish knaue is in loue with Mosbies sister,
 And for her sake, whose loue he cannot get
 Unlesse Mosbie solicit his sute, 130
 The villaine hath sworne the slaughter of his maister.
 Weele question him, for he may stead vs muche. —
 How now, Michael, whether are you going?
Mic. My maister hath new supt,
 And I am going to prepare his chamber. 135
Gre. Where supt M(aister) Arden?
Mic. At the Nages head, at the 18 pence ordinarye. How now, M(aister) Shakbag?
 what, Black Will! Gods deere lady, how
 chaunce your face is so bloody? 140

107 tainted with *Qq*: tainted yet *J* etc. 119 her
 om. *Q* 3 125 on *Qq*: of *WP*

Will. Go too, sirra, there is a chaunce in it:
 This sawcines in you will make you be knockt.
Mic. Nay, and you be offended, ile be gone.
Gre. Stay, michael, you may not scape vs so.
 Michael, I knowe you loue your M(aister) wel.
Mic. Why; so I do; but wherefore vrdge you that? 146
Gre. Because I thinke you loue your mistres better.
(Mic.) So think not I; but say, yfaith, what, if I should?
Shak. Come to the purpose, Michael; we heare
 You haue a pretty loue in Feurs shame. 150
Mic. Why, haue I two or three, whats that to thee?
Will. You deale to mildely with the pesant.
 Thus it is:
 Tis knowne to vs you loue mosbies sister;
 We know besides that you haue tane your oath
 To further Mosbie to your mistres bed, 155
 And kill your M(aister) for his sisters sake.
 Now, sir, a poorer coward then your selfe
 Was neuer fostered in the coast of Kent:
 How comes it then that such a knaue as you
 Dare sweare a matter of such consequence?
Gre. Ah, will — 161
Will. Tush, giue me leaue, thers no more but this:
 Sith thou hast sworne, we dare discouer all;
 And hadst thou or shouldst thou vtter it,
 We haue deuised a complat vnder hand, 165
 What euer shall betide to any of vs,
 To send thee roundly to the diuell of hell.
 And therefore thus: I am the very man,
 Markt in my birth howre by the destynies,
 To giue an end to Ardens lyfe on earth; 170
 Thou but a member but to whet the knife
 Whose edge must search the closet of his breast:
 Thy office is but to appoint the place
 And traine thy M(aister) to his tragedy;
 Myne to performe it when occasion serues. 175
 Then be not nice, but here deuise with vs
 How and what way we may conclude his death.
Sha. So shalt thou purchase Mosbie for thy frend,
 And by his frendship gaine his sisters loue.
Gre. So shal thy mistres be thy fauorer, 180
 And thou disburnd of the oath thou made.
Mic. Wel, gentlemen, I cannot but confesse,
 Sith you haue vrdged me so aparently,

142 be om. *Q* 2, 3 148 Given to Greene in *Q* 1 153
 knowne *Q* 1 159 then om. *Q* 3

That I haue vowed my M(aister) Ardens death;

And he whose kindly loue and liberall hand 185
Doth challenge naught but good deserts of me,
I wil delyuer ouer to your hands.

This night come to his house at Aldersgate:
The dores Ile leaue vnlockt against you come.
No sooner shall ye enter through the latch, 190
Ouer the threshold to the inner court,
But on your left hand shall you see the staires
That leads directly to my M(aisters) chamber:
There take him and dispose him as ye please.
Now it were good we parted company; 195
What I haue promised, I will performe.

Wil. Should you deceiue vs, twould go
wrong with you.

Mic. I will accomplish al I haue reuealde.

Wil. Come, let's go drinke: choller makes
me as drye as a dog. 200

Exeunt Will, Gre., and Shak. Manet Michael.

Mic. Thus feedes the Lambe securely on
the downe,

Whilst through the thicket of an arber brake
The hunger bitten Woulfe orepyries his hant
And takes aduantage to eat him vp.

Ah, harmeles Arden, how, how hast thou mis-
done, 205

That thus thy gentle lyfe is leueld at?

The many good turnes that thou hast don to
me,

Now must I quitance with betraying thee.
I that should take the weapon in my hand
And buckler thee from ill intending foes, 210
Do lead thee with a wicked fraudfull smile,
As vnsuspected, to the slaughterhouse.

So haue I sworne to Mosby and my mistres,
So haue I promised to the slaughtermen;
And should I not deale currently with them, 215
Their lawles rage would take reuenge on me.

Tush, I will spurne at mercy for this once:
Let pittie lodge where feeble women ly,
I am resolu'd, and Arden needs must die.

[*Exit Michael.*]

(ACT III.

SCENE I.

A Room in Francklin's House, at Aldersgate.)

Here enters Arden & Fran.

Arden. No, Francklin, no: if feare or
stormy threts,

If loue of me or care of womanhoode,
If feare of God or common speach of men,
Who mangle credit with their wounding words,

204 to] for to T 207 that om. Q3 211 wicked
om. Q3 Act III. etc. add. T

And cooch dishonor as dishonor buds, 5
Might ioyne repentaunce in her wanton
thoughts,

No question then but she would turn the leafe
And sorrow for her desolution;

But she is rooted in her wickednes, 9

Peruerse and stobburne, not to be reclaimde;

Good counsell is to her as raine to weedes,

And reprehension makes her vice to grow
As Hydraes head that flourish by decay.

Her faults, me thinks, are painted in my face,
For euery searching eye to ouerreede; 15

And Mosbies name, a scandale vnto myne,
Is deeply trenched in my blushing brow.

Ah, Francklin, Francklin, when I think on
this,

My harts greefe rends my other powers 19

Worse then the conflict at the houre of death.

Fran. Gentle Arden, leaue this sad lament:

She will amend, and so your greefes will cease;

Or els shele die, and so your sorrows end.

If neither of these two do happily fall,

Yet let your comfort be that others beare 25

Your woes, twice doubled all, with patience.

Ard. My house is irksome, there I cannot
rest.

Fra. Then stay with me in London, go not
home.

Ard. Then that base Mosbie doth vsurpe
my roome

And makes his triumphe of my beeing thence.

At home or not at home, where ere I be, 31

Heere, heere it lyes, ah Francklin, here it lyes

That wil not out till wretched Arden dies.

Here enters Michael.

Fra. Forget your greefes a while; heer
coms your man.

Ard. What a Clock ist, sirra? 35

Mic. Almost ten.

Ard. See, see, how runnes away the weary
time!

Come, M(aister) Franklin, shal we go to bed?

[*Exeunt Arden & Michael.*]

[*Manet Francklin.*]

Fran. I pray you, go before: Ile follow you.

— Ah, what a hell is fretfull Jelousie! 40

What pittie mouing words, what deepe fetcht
sighes,

What greeuous grones and ouerlading woes

Accompanies this gentle gentleman!

Now will he shake his care oppressed head,

Then fix his sad eis on the sullen earth, 45

Ashamed to gaze vpon the open world;

5 couch Q3: crop D 13 flourish conj. D: perisht
Qq: plenisht WP 14 think Q1: thinke Q3 41
moning Q1

Now will he cast his eyes vp towards the hea-
uens,

Looking that waies for redresse of wrong:
Some times he seeketh to beguile his grieue
And tels a story with his carefull tongue; 50
Then comes his wiues dishonor in his thoughts
And in the middle cutteth of his tale,
Powring fresh sorrow on his weary lims.
So woe begone, so inly charged with woe,
Was neuer any lyued and bare it so. 55

Here enters Michael.

Mic. My M(aister) would desire you come
to bed.

Fra. Is he himselfe already in his bed?
[*Exit Fran. Manet Mic.*]

Mic. He is, and faine would haue the light
away.

— Conflicting thoughts, incamped in my brest,
Awake me with the Echo of their strokes, 60
And I, a iudge to censure either side,
Can giue to neither wished victory.

My masters kindnes pleads to me for lyfe
With iust demaund, and I must grant it him:
My mistres she hath forced me with an oath, 65
For Susans sake, the which I may not breake,
For that is nearer then a masters loue:

That grim faced fellow, pittiles black Will,
And Shakebag, stearne in bloody stratageme,
Two Ruffier Ruffins neuer liued in Kent, 70
Haue sworne my death, if I infringe my vow,
A dreadfull thing to be considred of.

Me thinks I see them with their bolstroed haire
Staring and grinning in thy gentle face,
And in their ruthles hands their daggers drawne,
Insulting ore thee with a peck of oathes, 76
Whilest thou submissiue, pleading for releefe,
Art mangled by their irefull instruments.

Me thinks I heare them aske where Michael is,
And pittiles black Will cries: 'Stab the slaue!
The Pesant will detect the Tragedy!' 81
The wringles in his fowle death threatening face
Gapes open wide, lyke graues to swallow men.
My death to him is but a merrymment,
And he will murder me to make him sport.
He comes, he comes! ah, M(aister) Francklin,
helpe! 86

Call vp the neighbors, or we are but dead!

Here enters Fran. & Arden.

Fran. What dismall outcry calms me from
my rest?

Ard. What hath occasiond such a fearefull
crye?

Speake, Michael: hath any iniurde thee? 90

Mic. Nothing, sir; but as I fell asleepe,

76 thee Q 3: there Q 1, 2 86 ah om. Q 3

Vpon the threshold leaning to the staires,
I had a fearefull dreame that troubled me,
And in my slumber thought I was beset 94
With murtherer theeues that came to rifle me.
My trembling ioints witnes my inward feare:
I craue your pardons for disturbing you.

Ard. So great a cry for nothing I nere
heard.

What? are the doores fast lockt and al things
safe?

Mic. I cannot tel; I think I lockt the
doores. 100

Ard. I like not this, but Ile go see my
selfe. —

Nere trust me but the dores were all vnlockt:
This negligence not halfe contenteth me.

Get you to bed, and, if you loue my fauour,
Let me haue no more such pranckes as these.
Come, M(aister) Francklin, let vs go to bed.

Fran. I, by my faith; the aire is very colde.
Michael, farewell; I pray thee dreame no
more. [Exeunt.]

(SCENE II.

Outside Francklin's House.)

Here enters Will, Gre., & Shak.

Shakebag. Black night hath hid the plea-
surs of ye day,

And sheting darknesse ouerhangs the earth
And with the black folde of her cloudy robe
Obscures vs from the eyesight of the worlde,
In which swete silence such as we triumph. 5
The laysie minuts linger on their time,
Loth to giue due audit to the howre,
Til in the watch our purpose be complete
And Arden sent to euerlasting night. 9

Greene, get you gone and linger here about,
And at some houre hence come to vs againe,
Where we will giue you instance of his death.

Gre. Speede to my wish, whose wil so ere
sayes no;

And so ile leaue you for an howre or two.
[Exit Gre.]

Will. I tel thee, Shakebag, would this
thing wer don: 15

I am so heauy that I can scarce go;
This drowsines in me bods little good.

Shake. How now, Will? become a pre-
cission?

Nay, then lets go sleepe, when buges and feares
Shall kill our courages with their fancies
worke. 20

Will. Why, Shakbagge, thou mistakes me
much,

92 leading D 102 were Q 1: are Q 2, 3 107 by
Q 3, be Q 1 Scene II. etc. add. T S. D. Here..Shak.
follows line 1 in Q 1 4 Obscures Q 2: Obscure Q 1, 2

And wrongs me to in telling me of feare.
Wert not a serious thing we go about,
It should be slept til I had fought with thee,
To let thee know I am no coward, I. 25
I tel thee, Shakbag, thou abusest me.

Sha. Why, thy speach bewraied an inlye
kind of feare,
And sauoud of a weak relenting spirit.
Go forward now in that we haue begonne,
And afterwards attempt me when thou darest.

Wil. And if I do not, heauen cut me off! 31
But let that passe, and show me to this
house,

Where thou shalt see Ile do as much as Shak-
bag.

Sha. This is the doore; but soft, me thinks
tis shut.

The villaine Michaell hath deceiued vs. 35

Wil. Soft, let me see; shakbag, tis shut
indeed.

Knock with thy sword, perhaps the slaue will
heare.

Sha. It wil not be; the white liuerd pesant
Is gon to bed, and laughs vs both to scorne.

Wil. And he shall by his mirriment as
deare 40

As euer coistrell bought so little sport:
Nere let this sworde assist me when I neede,
But rust and canker after I haue sworne,
If I, the next time that I mete the hind,
Loppe not away his leg, his arme, or both. 45

Sha. And let me neuer draw a sword
again,

Nor prosper in the twilight, cockshut light,
When I would fleece the welthie passenger,
But ly and languish in a loathsome den,
Hated and spit at by the goers by, 50
And in that death may die vnpietied,
If I, the next time that I meete the slaue,
Cut not the nose from of the cowards face
And trample on it for this villany.

Wil. Come, lets go seeke out Green; I know
hele swear. 55

Sha. He were a villane, and he would not
swear.

Twould make a pesant sweare amongst his
boyes,

That nere durst say before but yea and no,
To be thus flouted of a coysterel.

Will. Shakbag, lets seeke out Green, & in
the morning 60

At the Alehouse butting Ardens house
Watch thee out comming of that prick eard cur,
And then let me alone to handle him.

[*Exeunt.*

(SCENE III.

Room in Francklin's House as before.)

Here enters Ard., Fra., & Michaell.

Ard. Sirra, get you back to billensgate
And learne what time the tide will serue our
turne;

Come to vs in Paules. First go make the bed,
And afterwards go harken for the floude.

[*Exit Michaell.*
Come, M(aister) Francklin, you shall go with
me. 5

This night I dreamd that, beeing in a parke,
A toyle was picht to ouerthrow the deare,
And I vpon a little rysing hill
Stoode whistely watching for the herds ap-
proch.

Euen there, me thought, a gentle slumber
tooke me, 10

And sommond all my parts to sweete repose;
But in the pleasure of this golden rest

An ill thewd foster had remised the toyle,
And rounded me with that beguyling home

Which late, me thought, was picht to cast
the deare. 15

With that he blew an euill sounding horne,
And at the noise an other heardman came,
With Fauchon drawn, and bent it at my brest,
Crying aloud 'Thou art the game we seeke!'
With this I wakt and trembled euery ioynt, 20

Lyke one oscured in a lytle bushe,
That sees a lyon foraging about,

And, when the dreadful forest King is gone,
He pryas about with timerous suspect

Throughout the thorny casements of the
brake, 25

And will not think his person daungerles,
But quakes and shewers, though the cause be
gone:

So, trust me, Francklin, when I did awake,
I stoode in doubt whether I waked or no: 29

Such great impression tooke this fond surprise.
God graunt this vision bedeeime me any good.

Fran. This fantassie doeth rise from
Michaels feare,

Who being awaked with the noyse he made,
His troubled senses yet could take no rest; 34

And this, I warant you, procured your dreame.

Ard. It may be so, God frame it to the best:
But often times my dreames presage to trew.

Fran. To such as note their nightly fan-
tassies,

Some one in twenty may incurre beliefe;
But vse it not, tis but a mockery. 40

Scene III. *etc. add. T* 10 thoughts Q 1, 2 27
shewers Q 2: shiners Q 3

38 Line ends bed Qq 53 of om. Q 3 54 this] his
Q 2, 3 62 thee Q 1: the Q 3

Ard. Come, M(aister) Francklin; wele
now walke in Paules
And dyne together at the ordinary,
And by my mans direction draw to the key,
And with the tyde go down to Feuershame.
Say, M(aister) Francklin, shall it not be so?
Francklin. At your good pleasure, sir; Ile
beare you companye. 46

[*Exeunt.*

(SCENE IV.

Aldersgate.)

Here enters Michaelle at one doore

*Here enters Grene, Will, and Shakebag at
another doore.*

Wil. Draw, Shakbag, for heers that vil-
laine Michael.

Gre. First, Will, lets heare what he can say.

Wil. Speak, milkesope slaue, & neuer after
speake.

Mic. For Gods sake, sirs, let me excuse my
selfe:

For heare I sweare, by heauen and earth and
all, 5

I did performe the outmost of my task,
And left the doores vnbolted and vnlockt.

But see the chaunce: Francklin and my
master

Were very late conferring in the porch,
And Francklin left his napkin where he sat 10
With certain gould knit in it, as he said.

Being in bed, he did bethinke himselfe,
And comming down he found the doores vnshut:

He lockt the gates, and brought away the
keyes,

For which offence my master rated me. 5

But now I am going to see what floode it is,
For with the tyde my M(aister) will away;
Where you may frons him well on Raynum
downe,

A place well fitting such a stratageme.

Wil. Your excuse hath somewhat molyfied
my choller. 20

Why now, Greene, tis better now nor ere it
was.

Gre. But Michaelle, is this trew?

Mic. As trew as I report it to be trew.

Shak. Then, Michaelle, this shall be your
pennance,

To feast vs all at the Salutation, 25
Where we wil plat our purpose throughly.

Gre. And, Michael, you shal bear no
newes of this tide,

Because they two may be in Raynum down
Before your M(aister).

Mic. Why, Ile agree to any thing youle
haue me, 30
So you will accept of my company. [*Exeunt.*

(SCENE V.

Arden's House at Feversham.)

Here enters Mosby.

Mos. Disturbed thoughts dryues me from
company

And dryes my marrow with their watchfulnes;
Continuall trouble of my moody braine

Feebles my body by excesse of drinke,
And nippes me as the bitter Northeast wind 5

Doeth check the tender blossoms in the spring.
Well fares the man, how ere his cates do taste,

That tables not with foule suspition;
And he but pines amongst his delicats,

Whose troubled minde is stuff with discontent.
My goulden time was when I had no gould; 11

Though then I wanted, yet I slept secure;
My dayly toyle begat me nights repose,

My nights repose made daylight fresh to me.
But since I climbd the toppe bough of the tree

And sought to build my nest among the clouds,
Each gentle stary galle doth shake my bed,

And makes me dread my downfall to the earth.
But whether doeth contemplation carry me?

The way I seeke to finde, where pleasure dwels,
Is hedged behinde me that I cannot back, 21

But needs must on, although to dangers gate.
Then, Arden, perish thou by that decre;

For Greene doth erre the land and weede thee
vp

To make my haruest nothing but pure corne. 25
And for his paines Ile heaue him vp a while,

And after smother him to haue his waxe:
Such bees as Greene must neuer lue to sting.

Then is there Michael and the Painter to,
Cheefe actors to Ardens ouerthrow; 30

Who when they shall see me sit in Ardens seat,
They wil insult vpon me for my mede,

Or fright me by detecting of his end.
Ile none of that, for I can cast a bone

To make these cures pluck out each others
throat, 35

And then am I sole ruler of mine owne.
Yet mistres Arden liues; but she's my selfe,

And holy Church rites makes vs two but one.
But what for that? I may not trust you, Ales:

You haue supplanted Arden for my sake, 40
You will extirpen me to plant another.

28-9 One line Qq

31 accept Q3: except Q1

46 Two lines Qq. div. after sir Scene IV. etc. add.

T 2 Will om. Q3 18 frons Q1, 2: front Q3 22

this] it Q3

Scene V. WP: New act T S. D. Arden's etc. add. T

12 Thought Q1 24 erre] heyre Q3 26 hve D

31 shall om. Q3

Tis feareful sleeping in a serpents bed,
And I wil cleanly rid my hands of her.

Here enters Ales.

But here she comes and I must flatter her.
— How now, Ales? what, sad and passionat?
Make me pertaker of thy pensiuenes: 46
Fyre deuided burnes with lesser force.

Ales. But I will damne that fire in my
breast
Till by the force therof my part consume.

Ah, Mosbie! 50
Mos. Such depe pathaires lyke to a cannons
burst

Discharge against a ruinated wall,
Breakes my relenting hart in thousand pieces.
Vngentle Ales, thy sorrow is my sore;
Thou knowst it wel, and tis thy pollicy 55
To forge distressefull looks to wound a breast
Where lyes a hart that dies when thou art sad.
It is not loue that loues to anger loue.

Ales. It is not loue that loues to murder
loue.

Mos. How meane you that? 60
Ales. Thou knowest how dearly Arden
loued me.

Mos. And then?
Ales. And then — conceale the rest, for
tis too bad,

Least that my words be carried with the wind,
And publish in the world to both our
shames. 65

I pray thee, Mosbye, let our springtime wither;
Our haruest els will yeald but lothsome weedes.
Forget, I pray thee, what hath past betwix vs,
For now I blushe and tremble at the thoughts.

Mos. What? are you changde? 70

Ales. I, to my former happy lyfe againe,
From tytle of an odious strumpets name
To honest Ardens wife, not Ardens honest
wife.

Ha, Mosbye, tis thou hast rifled me of that
And made me slaundrous to all my kin; 75
Euen in my forehead is thy name ingrauen,
A meane Artificer, that lowe borne name.
I was bewitched: woe worth the haples howre
And all the causes that inchaunted me!

Mos. Nay, if thou ban, let me breath curses
forth, 80

And if you stand so nicely at your fame,
Let me repent the credit I haue lost.
I haue neglected matters of import
That would haue stated me aboue thy state,
Forslowde aduantages, and spurnd at time: 85

I, Fortunes right hand Mosbie hath forsooke
To take a wanton giglote by the left.
I left the Mariage of an honest maid,
Whose dowry would haue weyed down all thy
wealth,

Whose beauty and demianor farre exceeded
thee: 90

This certaine good I lost for changing bad,
And wrapt my credit in thy company.
I was bewicht, — that is no theame of thine, —
And thou vnhalloved hast enchaunted me.

But I wil breake thy spels and excir-
si(s)mes 95

And put another sight vpon these eyes
That shewed my hart a rauen for a doue.
Thou art not faire, I vied thee not till now;
Thou art not kinde, till now I knew the not;

And now the raine hath beaten of thy gilt, 100
Thy worthles copper shewes thee counterfet.
It grieues me not to see how foull thou art,
But maddes me that euer I thought thee faire.

Go, get thee gone, a copesmate for thy hyndes;
I am too good to be thy fauorite. 105
Ales. I, now I see, and too soone find it
trew,

Which often hath beene tould me by my
freends,
That Mosbie loues me not but for my wealth,
Which too incredulus I nere beleueed.

Nay, heare me speake, Mosbie, a word or
two; 110

Ile byte my tongue if it speake bitterly.
Looke on me, Mosby, or Ile kill my selfe:
Nothing shall hide me from thy stormy looke.
If thou cry warre, there is no peace for me;
I will do pennance for offending thee, 115
And burne this prayer booke, where I here
vse

The holy word that had conuerted me.
See, Mosbie, I will teare away the leaues,
And al the leaues, and in this golden couer
Shall thy sweete phrases and thy letters dwell;
And thereon will I chiefly meditate, 121
And hould no other sect but such deuotion.
Wilt thou not looke? is all thy loue ouer-
whelmde?

Wilt thou not heare? what malice stopes thine
eares?

Why speaks thou not? what silence ties thy
tongue? 125

Thou hast bene sighted as the eagle is,
And heard as quickly as the fearefull hare,
And spoke as smoothly as an orator,
When I haue bid thee heare or see or speak,

49-50 One line Qq 51 depe pathaires] deep-fet airs
D: depe-fet sighs WP 69 now Q1: Now WP
74 has WP 80 thou] you WP

94 hast Q1, 3: has WP 95 excirsimes Q1: exor-
cismes Q3 97 dowe Q1: Dove Q3 99 the Q1:
thee Q3 107 me om. Q3 112 or] or else Q3

And art thou sensible in none of these? 130
 Waigh all thy good turns with this little
 fault,
 And I deserue not Mosbies muddy lookes.
 A fence of trouble is not thickned still:
 Be cleare againe, Ile nere more trouble thee.
Mos. O no, I am a base artificer; 135
 My winges are feathred for a lowly flight.
 Mosby? fy! no, not for a thousand pound.
 Make loue to you? why, 'tis vnparadonable;
 We beggers must not breath where gentiles
 are. 139
Ales. Swete Mosbie is as gentle as a King,
 And I too blinde to iudge him otherwise.
 Flowres do some times spring in fallow
 lands,
 Weedes in gardens, Roses grow on thornes;
 So, what so ere my Mosbies father was,
 Himselfe (is) valued gentle by his worth. 145
Mos. Ah, how you women can insinuate,
 And cleare a trespasse with your sweete set
 tongue!
 I will forget this quarrel, gentle Ales,
 Prouided Ile be tempted so no more.

Here enters Bradshaw.

Al. Then with thy lips seale vp this new
 made match. 150
Mos. Soft, Ales, for here comes some body.
Ales. How now, Bradshaw, whats the news
 with you?
Brad. I haue little news, but heres a letter
 That M(aister) Greene importuned me to giue
 you.
Ales. Go in, Bradshaw; call for a cuppe of
 beare; 155
 Tis almost suppertime, thou shalt stay with vs.
 [Exit (Bradshaw.)]

Then she reads the Letter.

'We haue mist of our purpose at London, but
 shall perform it by the waye. We thanke our
 neighbour Bradshaw.

Yours, Richard Greene.'

How lykes my loue the tennor of this letter?
Mos. Well, were his date compleat and
 expired. 161
Ales. Ah, would it were! Then comes my
 happy howre:
 Till then my blisse is mixt with bitter gall.
 Come, let vs in to shyn suspicion.

Mosb. I, to the gates of death to follow
 thee. 165

[Exeunt.]

131 thy] my J 135 O] O, fie Q3 136 fight Qj
 142 do om, Q3 145 is add. J 151 for om. WP
 S. D. exit after 155 Q1 162 Two lines Qq dir. were
 165 Prefix Mosb Q3: Ales Q1

(SCENE VI.

Country near Rochester.)

Here enters Greene, Will, & Shakbag.

Shak. Come, Will, see thy tooles be in a
 redynes:

Is not thy Powder dancke, or will thy flint
 stryke fyre?

Will. Then aske me if my nose be on my
 face,

Or whether my tounge be frozen in my mouth.
 Zounds, heres a coyle! 5

You were best sweare me on the intergatories
 How many pistols I haue tooke in hand,
 Or whether I loue the smell of gunne powder,
 Or dare abide the noise the dagge will make,
 Or will not wincke at flashing of the fire. 10
 I pray thee, shackbag, let this answer thee,
 That I haue tooke more purses in this down
 Then ere thou handledst pistols in thy life.

Sha. I, happely thou hast pickt more in a
 throng: 14

But, should I bragge what booties I haue tooke,
 I think the ouerplus thats more then thine
 Would mount to a greater somme of money
 Then either thou or all thy kinne are worth.
 Zounds, I hate them as I hate a toade
 That cary a muscado in their tongue, 20
 And scarce a hurting weapon in their hand.

Wil. O Greene, intollerable!
 It is not for mine honor to beare this.

Why, shackbag, I did serue the King at Bul-
 loyne,

And thou canst bragge of nothing that thou
 hast done. 25

Shak. Why, so can Jack of Feuershame,
 That sounded for a phillope on the nose,
 When he that gaue it him hollowed in his eare,
 And he supposed a Cannon bullet hit him.

Then they fight.

Grene. I pray you, sirs, list to Esops talk: 30
 Whilset two stout dogs were striuing for a bone,
 There comes a cur and stole it from them both;
 So, while you stand striuing on these termes of
 manhoode,

Arden escapes vs, and deceaue(s) vs al.

Shake. Why, he begun.

Will. And thou shalt finde Ile end; 35
 I doo but slip it vntil better time:
 But, if I do forget —

*Then hee kneeles downe and houldes vp his
 hands to heauen.*

Grene. Wel, take your fittest standings,
 & once more

Scene VI. etc. add. T 2 Two lines, Qq dir. dancke
 5-7 Prose Q1 25 that om. Q3 34 escape Q3: de-
 ceaue Q1: deceive Q3

Lime your twigs to catch this wary bird.
 Ile leaue you, and at your dags discharge 40
 Make towards, lyke the longing water dog
 That coucheth til the fowling peece be of,
 Then ceazeth on the pray with eager moode.
 Ah, might I see him stretching foorth his
 limmes,

As I haue seene them beat their wings ere now!
Shak. Why, that thou shalt see, if he come
 this way. 46

Gre. Yes, that he doth, shakbag, I warrant
 thee:

But braul not when I am gone in any case.
 But, sirs, besure to speede him when he comes,
 And in that hope Ile leaue you for an houre. 50

[*Exit Gre.*]

Here enters Arden, Fran., & Mic.

Mic. Twere best that I went back to
 Rochester:

The horse halts downright; it were not good
 He trauielled in such paine to feuershame;
 Remouing of a shoe may happely help it.

Ard. Well, get you back to Rochester; but,
 sirra, see 55

Ye ouertake vs ere we come to Raynum down,
 For it will be very late ere we get home.

Mic. — I, God he knowes, & so doth Will
 and shakebagge,

That thou shalt neuer go further then that
 downe;

And therefore haue I prickt the horse on pur-
 pose, 60

Because I would not view the massacar.

[*Exit Michael.*]

Arden. Come, M(aister) Francklin, on-
 wards with your tale.

Fran. I assure you, sir, you task me much:
 A heauy bloode is gathered at my hart,

And on the sudden is my winde so short 65
 As hindereth the passage of my speach;

So ferse a qualme yet neere assayled me.

Ard. Come, M(aister) Francklin, let vs
 go on softly:

The anoyance of the dust or els some meat
 You eat at dinner cannot brooke with you. 70

I haue bene often so, and soone amended.

Fra. Do you remember where my tale did
 leaue?

Ard. I, where the gentleman did chek his
 wife.

Fran. She being reprehended for the fact,
 Witnes produced that tooke her with the deed,
 Her gloue broght in which there she left
 behind, 76

39 wary J: weary Qq 55-6 Prose Q I 67 ferse]
 fierce Q 3 70 with add. Q 3

And many other assured Arguments,
 Her husband askt her whether it were not so.

Ard. Her answer then? I wonder how she
 lookt,

Hauiing forsworne it with such vehement
 oathes, 80

And at the instant so approued vpon her.

Fra. First did she cast her eyes down to the
 earth,

Watching the drops that fell amaine from
 thence;

Then softly drawes she foorth her handkercher,
 And modestly she wypes her teare stained face ;

Then hemd she out, to cleare her voice, should
 seeme, 86

And with a maiesty addrest her selfe
 To encounter all their accusations.—

Pardon me, M(aister) Arden, I can no more ;
 This fighting at my hart makes shorte my
 wynde. 90

Ard. Come, we are almost now at Raynum
 downe:

Your pretty tale beguiles the weary way;
 I would you were in state to tell it out.

Shak. Stand close, Will, I heare them cum-
 ming. 94

Here enters Lord Cheiny with his men.

Wil. Stand to it, Shakbag, and be resolute.

Lord Che. Is it so neere night as it seemes
 Or wil this black faced euening haue a showre?

— What, M(aister) Arden? you are well met,
 I haue longd this fortnights day to speake
 with you:

You are a stranger, man, in the ile of Sheppy.

Ard. Your honors alwayes: bound to do
 you seruice. 101

Lord Che. Come you from London, & nere
 a man with you?

Ard. My man's comming after, but her's
 My honest freend that came along with me.

Lord Che. My Lord protectors man I take
 you to bee. 105

Fran. I, my good Lord, and highly bound
 to you.

Lord Che. You & your frend come home &
 sup with me.

Ard. I beseech your honor pardon me;
 I haue made a promise to a gentleman,

My honest freend, to meete him at my house ;
 The occasion is great, or els would I wait on
 you. 111

Lord C. Will you come to morrow & dyne
 with me,

And bring your honest frend along with you ?
 I haue dyuers matters to talke with you about.

100 Shepny Q I 103-4 Div. after Q q

Arden. To morrow wele waite vpon your honor. 115

Lord C. One of you staye my horse at the top of the hil.

—What! black Will? for whose purse wait you? Thou wilt be hanged in Kent, when all is done.

Wil. Not hanged, God saue your honor;

I am your bedesman, bound to pray for you. 120

Lord C. I think thou nere saidest prayer in all thy lyfe. —

One of you giue him a crowne: —

And, sirra, leaue this kinde of lyfe;

If thou beest tainted for a penny matter, 124

And come in question, surely, thou wilt trusse.

— Come, M(aister) Arden, let vs be going;

Youre way and mine lyes foure myle togeather.

[*Exeunt. Manet Black Wil & Shakbag.*]

Wil. The Deuill break all your necks at 4 myles end!

Zounds, I could kill my selfe for very anger!

His Lordship chops me in, euen when 130

My dagge was leaued at his hart.

I would his crowne were molten down his throat.

Sha. Arden, thou hast wondrous holye luck.

Did euer man escape as thou hast done?

Well, Ile discharge my pistoll at the skye, 135

For by this bullet Arden might not die.

Here enters Greene.

Gre. What, is he down? is he dispatcht?

Sha. I, in health towards Feuershame, to shame vs all.

Gre. The Deuill he is! why, sirs, how escapt he?

shak. When we were ready to shoote, 140

Comes my Lord Cheiny to preuent his death.

Grene. The Lord of heauen hath preserued him.

Will. Preserued a figge! The L(ord) Cheiny hath perserued him, 143

And bids him to a feast to his house at shorlow.

But by the way once more Ile meete with him,

And, if all the Cheinies in the world say no,

Ile haue a bullet in his breast to morrow.

Therefore come, Greene, and let vs to Feuershame.

Gre. I, and excuse our selues to mistres Arden:

O, how shele chafe when she heares of this!

sha. Why, ile warrant you shel think we dare not do it. 151

Wil. Why, then let vs go, & tell her all the matter,

And plat the newes to cut him of to morrow.

[*Exeunt.*]

124 a] one Q? 120-1 Dic, in WP

(ACT IV.

SCENE I.

Arden's House at Feversham.)

Here enters Arden and his wife, Francklin, and Michaell.

Ard. See how the howrs, the gardeant of heauens gate,

Haue by their toyle remoued the darksome cloudes,

That Soll may wel deserne the trampled pace

Wherein he wount to guide his golden car:

The season fits; come, Francklin, let's away.

Ales. I thought you did pretend some speciall hunt, 6

That made you thus cut shorte the time of rest.

Ard. It was no chase that made me rise so early,

But, as I tould thee yesternight, to go

To the Ile of Sheppy, there to dine with my Lord Cheiny; 10

For so his honor late commanded me.

Ales. I, such kinde husbands seldome want excuses;

Home is a wilde Cat to a wandring wit.

The time hath bene,—would God it were not past,—

That honors tytyle nor a Lords command 15

Could once haue drawne you from these armes of mine.

But my deserts or your desires decay,

Or both; yet if trew loue may seeme desert,

I merite stil to haue thy company.

Fran. Why, I pray you, sir, let her go along with vs; 20

I am sure his honor wil welcome her

And vs the more for bringing her along.

Ard. Content; sirra, saddle your mistres nagge.

Ales. No, begde fauor merites little thankes;

If I should go, our house would runne away, 25

Or els be stolne; therefore Ile stay behind.

Ard. Nay, see how mistaking you are!

I pray thee, goe.

Ales. No, no, not now.

Ard. Then let me leaue thee satisfied in this,

That time nor place nor persons alter me, 30

But that I hould thee dearer then my lyfe.

Ales. That will be seene by your quick returne.

Act IV. etc. add. T 1 gardeant] guard at Q3 3
deserne WP: deserue Q1: discerne Q3 pace] path
WP, but cf. N. F. D. 9-10 Dic, Sheppy Q7 17
desires WP: deserves Q7

Ard. And that shall be ere night, and if I live. 33

Farewell, sweete Ales, we mind to sup with thee. [Exit Al.]

Fra. Come, Michael, are our horses ready?

Michael. I, your horse are ready, but I am not ready, for I haue lost my purse, with six and thirtie shillings in it, with taking vp of my M(aisters) Nagge.

Fra. Why, I pray you, let vs go before, 40
Whilst he stayes behind to seeke his purse.

Ard. Go too, sirra, see you follow vs to the ile of sheppye

To my Lord Cheynnes, where we meane to dine. 43

[Exeunt Arden & Francklin.
Manet Michael.]

Mic. So, faire weather after you, for before you lyes black Will and shakebag in the broome close, to close for you: theyle be your ferrymen to long home.

Here enters the Painter.

But who is this? the Painter, my corriual, that would nedes winne M(istris) Susan.

Clark. How now, Michael? how doth my Mistresse and all at home? 51

Mic. Who? susan Mosbye? she is your Mistres, too?

Cl. I, how doth she and all the rest?

Mic. Al's well but susan; she is sicke. 55

Cl. Sick? Of what disease?

Mic. Of a great feare.

Cl. A feare of what?

Mic. A great feuer.

Cl. A feuer? God forbidde! 60

Mic. Yes, faith, and of a lordaine too, as bigge as your selfe.

Cl. O, Michael, the spleane prickles you. Go too, you carry an eye ouer mistres susan.

Mic. I, faith, to keepe her from the Painter.

Cl. Why more from a Painter then from a serueng creature like your selfe?

Mic. Because you Painters make but a painting table of a pretty wench, and spoile her beauty with blotting. 70

Cl. What meane you by that?

Mic. Why, that you Painters paint lambes in the lynng of wenches peticots, and we seruengmen put hornes to them to make them become sheepe. 75

Cl. Such another word wil cost you a cuffe or a knock.

33 be om. Q3 36 horses Q3 36-9 Verse Q4: corr.
D 38 of om. Q3 39 M. Q1: mistris Q3 42 see
see that Q3 44 weather] whether Q1 44-9, 61-4
Verse Q4 49 M. Q1: mistris Q3 57 feuer D 72-5
Two verse lines Qq

Mic. What, with a dagger made of a pen-sell? Faith, tis too weake, and therefore thou to weak to winne susan. 80

Cl. Would susans loue lay vppon this stroke.

Then he breakes Michaels head.

Here enters Mosby, Greene, & Ales.

Ales. Ile lay my lyfe, this is for susans loue. Stayd you behinde your M(aister) to this end?

Haue you no other time to brable in 85
But now when serious matters are in hand?—

Say, Clarke, hast thou done the thing thou promised?

Cl. I, heare it is; the very touch is death.

Ales. Then this, I hope, if all the rest do faile,

Wil catch M(aister) Arden, 90

And make him wise in death that liued a foole.

Why should he thrust his sickle in our corne,

Or what hath he to do with thee, my loue,

Or gouerne me that am to rule my selfe? 94

Forsooth, for credit sake, I must leaue thee:

Nay, he must leaue to liue that we may loue,

May liue, may loue; for what is lyfe but loue?

And loue shall last as long as lyfe remaines,

And lyfe shall end before my loue depart.

Mos. Why, whats loue without true con- stancy? 100

Lyke to a piller built of many stones,

Yet neither with good mortar well compact

Nor cement to fasten it in the ioynts,

But that it shakes with euery blast of winde,

And, being toucht, straight falles vnto the earth, 105

And buries all his haughty pride in dust.

No, let our loue be rockes of Addamant,

Which time nor place nor tempest can asunder.

Gre. Mosbie, leaue protestations now,

And let vs bethinke vs what we haue to doo.

Black Will and shakebag I haue placed 111

In the broome close, watching Ardens com- ming;

Lets to them, and see what they haue done.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II.

The Kentish Coast opposite the Isle of Sheppey.)

Here enters Ard. & Fra.

Ard. Oh, ferryman, where art thou?

Here enters the Ferriman.

Fer. Here, here, goe before to the boat, and I will follow you.

78-80 Three verse lines Qq 103 cement Q3: semell
Q1, 2 112 broom, close J etc. Scene II. etc. add.
T 2-3 Verse Qq

Arđ. We haue great haste; I pray thee,
come away.
Fer. Fy, what a mist is here! 5
Arđ. This mist, my frend, is misticall,
Lyke to a good companions smoaky braine,
That was halfe dround with new ale ouer
night.
Fer. Twere pittie but his scull were opened
to make more Chimny roome. 10
Fran. Freend, whats thy opinion of this
mist?
Fer. I think tis lyke to a curst wife in a
lytle house, that neuer leaues her husband till
she haue driuen him out at doores with a wet
pairo of eyes; then lookes he as if his house
were a fire, or some of his freends dead. 16
Arđ. Speaks thou this of thine owne expe-
rience?
Fer. Perhaps, I; perhaps, no: For my wyfe
is as other women are, that is to say, gouerned
by the Moone. 20
Fran. By the Moone? how, I pray thee?
Fer. Na, thereby lyes a bargane, and you
shall not haue it fresh and fasting.
Arđ. Yes, I pray thee, good ferryman.
Fer. Then for this once; let it be midsomer
Moone, but yet my wyfe has another
moone. 27
Fran. Another Moone?
Fer. I, and it hath influences and Eclipses.
Arđ. Why, then, by this reconding you som-
times play the man in the Moone? 31
Fer. I, but you had not best to meddle with
that moone, least I scratch you by the face
with my bramble bush.
Arđ. I am almost stifled with this fog;
come, lets away. 36
Fran. And, sirra, as we go, let vs haue som
more of your bolde yeomandry.
Fer. Nay, by my troth, sir, but flat knauery.
[Exeunt.]

(SCENE III.

Another place on the Coast.)

*Here enters Will at one doore, and Shakbag at
another.*

Sha. Oh, Will, where art thou?
Wil. Here, shakbag, almost in hels mouth,
where I can not see my way for smoake.
Sha. I pray thee speake still that we may
mete by the sounđ, for I shall fall into some
ditch or other, vnles my feete see better then
my eies. 7
Wil. Didest thou euer see better weather to

runne away with another mans wife, or play
with a wenche at potfinger? 10
shak. No; this were a fine world for chand-
lers, if this weather would last; for then a
man should neuer dyne nor sup without can-
dle light. But, sirra Will, what horses are
those that past? 15
Wil. Why, didst thou heare any?
Sha. I, that I did.
Will. My life for thine, twas Arden, and
his companion, and then all our labour's lost.
Sha. Nay, say not so, for if it be they, they
may happily loose their way as we haue done,
and then we may chaunce meete with them.
Wil. Come, let vs go on lyke a couple cf
blind pilgrims.
Then Shakebag fallcs into a ditch.
Sha. Helpe, Will, help! I am almost
drownd. 25
Here enters the ferryman.
Fer. Whose that that calles for help?
Wil. Twas none heere, twas thou thy selfe.
Fer. I came to help him that cald for help.
Why, how now? who is this thats in the ditch?
You are well enough serued to goe without a
guyde such weather as this. 31
Wil. Sirra, what companyes hath past your
ferry this morning?
Fer. None but a cupple of gentlemen, that
went to dyne at my Lord cheyneis. 35
Wil. Shakkag, did not I tell thee as much?
Fer. Why, sir, will you haue any letters
caried to them?
Wil. No, sir; get you gone.
Fer. Did you euer see such a mist as this?
Wil. No, nor such a foole as will rather be
hought then get his way. 42
Fer. Why, sir, this is no hough munday;
you ar deceiud.—Whats his name, I pray you,
sir? 45
Sha. His name is black will.
Fer. I hope to see him one day hangd vpon
a hill. [Exit Ferriman.]
Sha. See how the Sunne hath cleard the
foggy mist,
Now we haue mist the marke of our intent.

Here enters Grene, Mosbye, and Ales.

Mos. Black Will and Shakkag, what make
you heer? 50

What, is the deed don? is Arden dead?

Wil. What could a blynded man performe
in armes?

Saw you not how till now the sky was darke,
That neither horse nor man could be decerned?

9-10, 12-16, 22-3, 25-7, 30-4 Verse Qq 26 has Q3:
as Q1, 2 32 not best] best not WP Scene III.
c.c. add. WP 2-3 Verse Qq 5 for] or Q3

11-15, 18-9, 28-31 Verse Qq 16 thou om. Q3 23
thats] that lies Q3 43 though Munday Q3

Yet did we heare their horses as they past. 55

Gre. Hauē they escapt you, then, and past the ferry?

Sha. I, for a while; but here we two will stay,
And at their comming back meete with them once more.

Zounds, I was nere so toylde in all my lyfe
In following so slight a taske as this. 60

Mos. How camst thou so beraide?

Wil. With making false footing in the dark;

He needs would follow them without a guide.

Ales. Here's to pay for a fire and good cheere:

Get you to Feuershame to the flowre de luce, 65
And rest your selues vntil some other time.

Gre. Let me alone; it most concernes my state.

Will. I, mistres Arden, this wil serue the turne,

In case we fal into a second fog.

[*Exeunt Grene, Will, and Shak.*]

Mos. These knaues wil neuer do it, let vs giue it ouer. 70

Ales. First tell me how you like my new deuice:

Soone, when my husband is returning back,
You and I both marching arme in arme,
Lyke louing frends, wele meete him on the way, 74

And boldly beard and braue him to his teeth.
When words grow hot and blowes beginne to ryse,

Ile call those cutters forth your tenement,
Who, in a manner to take vp the fray,
Shall wound my husband hornesbie to the death. 79

Mos. Ah, fine deuise! why, this deserues a kisse. [*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE IV.)

The Open Country.

Here enters Dicke Reede and a Sailer.

Sayler. Faith, Dick Rede, it is to lytle end:
His conscience is too liberall, and he too niggardly

To parte from any thing may doo thee good.

Rede. He is coming from Shorlow as I vnderstand;

Here ile intercept him, for at his house 5
He neuer will vouchafe to speake with me.
If prayers and faire intreaties will not serue,
Or make no battry in his flintye breast,

76 blowes] words Q3 79 Hornbeast WP 80 Ah]
A WP Scene IV. etc. add. T 3 thee] him Q3

Here enters Fra., Ard., and Michael.

Ile curse the carle, and see what that wil doo.
Se where he comes to further my intent!— 10
M(aister) Arden, I am now bound to the sea;
My comming to you was about the plat
Of ground which wrongfully you detainē from me:

Although the rent of it be very small,
Yet will it helpe my wife and children, 15
Which here I leaue in Feuershame, God knowes,

Needy and bare: for Christs sake, let them haue it!

Ard. Francklin, hearest thou this fellow speake?

That which he craues I dearly bought of him,
Although the rent of it was euer mine.— 20
Sirra, you that aske these questions,

If with thy clamorous impeaching tongue
Thou raile on me, as I haue heard thou dost,
Ile lay thee vp so close a twelue months day,
As thou shalt neither see the Sonne nor Moone.
Looke to it, for, as surely as I liue, 26
Ile banish pittie if thou vse me thus.

Rede. What, wilt thou do me wrong & threat me, too?

Nay, then, Ile tempt thee, Arden, doo thy worst.

God, I beseech thee, show some miracle 30
On thee or thine, in plaguing thee for this.

That plot of ground which thou detainest from me,

I speake it in an agony of spirite,
Be ruinous and fatall vnto thee!

Either there be butcherd by thy dearest freends, 35

Or els be brought for men to wonder at,
Or thou or thine miscary in that place,

Or there runne mad and end thy cursed dayes!

Fra. Fy, bitter knaue, brydle thine enuious tongue;

For curses are like arrowes shot vpright, 40
Which falling down light on the shooters head.

Rede. Light where they will! Were I vpon the sea,

As oft I haue in many a bitter storme,
And saw a dreadfull suthern flaw at hand,

The Pylate quaking at the doubtfull storme, 45
And all the saylers praying on their knees,

Euen in that fearefull time would I fall down,
And aske of God, what ere betide of me,

Vengeance on Arden or some miseuent
To shewe the world what wrong the carle hath done. 50

12 ends ground Qq 27 thou] you Q3 31 plaguing
Q1 41 sutors Q1, 2: shooters Q3

This charge Ile leaue with my distresfull wife,
My children shall be taught such praiers as
these:

And thus I go, but leaue my cursse with thee.

[*Exeunt Rede & Saylor.*]

Ard. It is the raylingest knaue in christen-
dome,

And oftentimes the villaine will be mad; 55

It greatly matters not what he sayes,

But I assure you I nere did him wrong.

Fra. I think so, M(aister) Arden.

Ard. Now that our horses are gone home
before,

My wife may hapely mete me on the way. 60

For God knowes she is growne passing kinde
of late,

And greatly chaunged from the ould

Humor of her wounted frowardnes,

And seekes by faire meanes to redeeme ould
faults.

Fra. Happy the change that alters for the
best! 65

But see in any case you make no speache

Of the cheare we had at my Lord Cheineis,

Although most bounteous and liberall,

For that will make her think her selfe more
wrongd,

In that we did not carry her along; 70

For sure she greeued that she was left behinde.

Ard. Come, Francklin, let vs strain to mend
our pace,

And take her vnawares playing the cooke;

Here enters Ales and Mosbie.

For I beleue sheele stryue to mend our
cheere.

Fra. Why, thers no better creaturs in the
world, 75

Then women are when they are in good
humors.

Ard. Who is that? Mosbie? what, so
famiulare?

Iniurious strumpet, and thou ribald knaue,
Vntwyne those armes.

Ales. I, with a sugred kisse let them
vntwine. 80

Ard. Ah, Mosbie! periurde beast! beare
this and all!

Mos. And yet no horned beast; the hornes
are thine.

Fra. O monstrous! Nay, then tis time to
draw.

Ales. Helpe, helpe! they murder my hus-
band.

Here enters Will and Shak.

Sha. Sounds, who iniures M(aister) Mos-
bie?— 85

Help, Wil! I am hurt.

Mos. I may thank you, Mistres arden, for
this wound.

[*Exeunt Mosby, Will, and Shakkbag.*]

Ales. Ah, Arden, what folly blinded thee?

Ah, Jelious harebraine man, what hast thou
don!

When we, to welcome thy intended sport, 90

Came louingly to mete thee on thy way,

Thou drewst thy sword, inraged with Jelousy,

And hurte thy freende whose thoughts were
free from harme;

All for a woorthles kisse and ioyning armes,

Both don but mirrelly to try thy patience. 95

And me vnhappy that deuyssed the Jest,

Which, though begonne in sporte, yet ends in
bloode!

Fra. Mary, God defend me from such a
Jeast!

Ales. Couldst thou not see vs frendly smyle
on thee,

When we ioyned armes, and when I kist his
cheeke? 100

Hast thou not lately found me ouer kinde?

Didst thou not heare me cry, they murder thee?

Cald I not helpe to set my husband free?

No, eares and all were witcht; ah me accurst

To lincke in lyking with a frantick man! 105

Hence forth Ile be thyslaue, no more thy wife,

For with that name I neuer shall content thee.

If I be merry, thou straight waies thinks me
light;

If sad, thou saiest the sullens trouble me;

If well attyred, thou thinks I will be gadding;

If homely, I seeme sluttish in thine eye: 111

Thus am I still, and shall be till I die,

Poore wench, abused by thy misgouernment!

Ard. But is it for trueth that neither thou
nor he

Entendedst malice in your misdemeanor? 115

Ales. The heauens can witnes of our harm-
les thoghts.

Ard. Then pardon me, sweete Ales, and
forgiue this faulte:

Forget but this and neuer see the lyke.

Impose me pennance, and I will performe it,

For in thy discontent I finde a death,— 120

A death tormenting more then death it selfe.

Ales. Nay, hadst thou loued me as thou
doest pretend,

51 my] wy Q 1 60 me om. Q 3 62 ends humor
Q 3: from D 73 her om. Q 3 to play Q 3 75 creature
3 82 horne-beast Q 3 two lines Q 1, 2, dir. beast

90 thy] thee with WP 93 Two lines Qq, dir.
freende 112 till] whill Q 1: while Q 3, etc. 117
Two lines Qq, dir. Ales

Thou wouldst haue markt the speeches of thy
frend,
Who going wounded from the place, he said
His skinne was peirst only through my deuise;
And if sad sorrow taint thee for this falt, 126
Thou wouldst haue followed him, and sene
him drest,
And cryde him mercy whome thou hast mis-
done:

Nere shall my hart be eased till this be done.

Arden. Content thee, sweete Ales, thou
shalt haue thy wil, 130

What ere it be. For that I iniurde thee,
And wrongd my frend, shame scourgeth my
offence;

Come thou thy selfe, and go along with me,
And be a mediator twixt vs two.

Fran. Why, M(aister) Arden! know you
what you do? 135

Will you follow him that hath dishonourd you?

Ales. Why, canst thou proue I haue bene
disloyall?

Fran. Why, Mosbie taunts your husband
with the horn.

Ales. I, after he had reuyled him
By the iniurious name of periurde beast: 140
He knew no wrong could spyte an Ielious man
More then the hatefull naming of the horne.

Fran. Suppose tis trew; yet is it dangerous
To follow him whome he hath lately hurt.

Ales. A fault confessed is more then halfe
amends; 145

But men of such ill spirite as your selfe
Worke crosses and debates twixt man and wife.

Ard. I pray the, gentle Francklin, holde
thy peace:

I know my wife counsels me for the best.
Ile seeke out mosby where his wound is drest,
And salue his haples quarrell if I may. 151

[Exeunt Arden & Ales.]

Fran. He whome the diuel driues must go
perforce.

Poore gentleman, how sone he is bewitcht!
And yet, because his wife is the instrument,
His frends must not be lauish in their speech.
[Exit Fran.]

(ACT V.

SCENE I.

A street in Feversham.)

Here enters Will, shakabage, & Greene.

Wil. Sirra Greene, when was I so long in
killing a man?

138 taunts your Q3: traunt you Q1: taunted your
D 141 an] a Q3 149 me om. Q3 150 Prefix Ard.
repeated before this line Q1 151 his] this D Act V.
etc. add. T

Gre. I think we shall neuer do it; let vs
giue it ouer.

Sha. Nay, Zounds! wele kill him, though
we be hangd at his dore for our labour. 6

Wil. Thou knowest, Greene, that I haue
liued in London this twelue yeers, where I
haue made some go vpon wodden legges for
taking the wall on me; dyuers with siluer
noses for saying 'There goes black will!' I haue
crackt as many blades as thou hast done Nutes.

Gre. O monstrous lye! 13

Will. Faith, in a maner I haue. The
bawdie houses haue paid me tribute there
durst not a whore set vp, vnlesse she haue
aggreed with me first for opning her shoppe
windowes. For a crosse worde of a Tapster
I haue pearced one barrell after another with
my dager, and held him by the eares till all
his beare hath run out. In Temes streete a
brewers carte was lyke to haue runne ouer
me: I made no more ado, but went to the clark
and cut all the natches of his tales and beat
them about his head. I and my companie
haue taken the Constable from his watch, and
carried him about the fields on a coltstafte.
I haue broken a Sariants head with his owne
mace, and baid whome I list with my sword
and buckler. All the tenpenny alehouses
would stand euery morning with a quart pot
in their hand, saying, 'will it please your wor-
ship drinke?' He that had not doone so, had
beene sure to haue had his Signe puld down &
his latic borne away the next night. To con-
clude, what haue I not done? yet cannot do
this; doubtles, he is preserued by Miracle. 37

Here enters Ales and Michael.

Gre. Hence, Will! here comes M(istris)
Arden.

Ales. Ah, gentle michael, art thou sure
their frends?

Mic. Why, I saw them when they both
shoke hands. 40

When Mosbie bled, he euen wept for sorrow,
And raild on Francklin that was cause of
all.

No sooner came the Surgen in at doores,
But my M(aister) tooke to his purse and gaue
him money,

And, to conclude, sent me to bring you word
That Mosbie, Francklin, Bradshaw, Adam
fowle, 46

With diuers of his neighbors and his frends,

3-37 Verse Qq 10 of me Q2, 3 12 done om. WP
20 by Q3: be Q1 24 all] off Q3 27 him om. Q3
30 men add. J 32 their] his Q1 34 Singe Q1
38 M. Q1: mistris Q3 44 to om. Q3

Will come and sup with you at our house this night.

Ales. Ah, gentle Michael, runne thou bak againe, 49

And, when my husband walkes into the faire, Bid Mosbie steale from him and come to me; And this night shal thou and Susan be made sure.

Mic. Ile go tell him.

Ales. And as thou goest, tell John cooke of our guests,

And bid him lay it on, spare for no coast. 55
[Exit Michael.

Wil. Nay, and there be such cheere, we wil bid our selues.—

Mistres Arden, Dick Greene & I do meane to sup with you.

Ales. And welcome shall you be. Ah, gentlemen,

How mist you of your purpose yesternight?

Gre. Was long of shakebag, that vnluckye villaine. 60

Sha. Thou doest me wrong; I did as much as any.

Wil. Nay then, M(istris) Ales, Ile tell you how it was:

When he should haue lockt with both his hilts, He in a brauery florisht ouer his head;

With that comes Francklin at him lustely, 65 And hurts the slaue; with that he slinks away.

Now his way had bene to haue come hand and feete, one and two round, at his costerd: he lyke a foole beares his sword point halfe a yarde out of danger. I lye here for my lyfe; if the deuill come, and he haue no more strength then fence, he shall neuer beat me from this warde.

Ile stand to it, a buckler in a skilfull hand Is as good as a castell; nay, 75

Tis better then a sconce, for I haue tryde it. Mosbie, perceiuing this, began to faint:

With that comes Arden with his arming sword, And thrust him through the shoulder in a tryce.

Ales. I, but I wonder why you both stooode still. 80

Wil. Faith, I was so amazed, I could not strike.

Ales. Ah, sirs, had he yesternight bene slaine,

For euery drop of his detested bloode I would haue cram'd in Angels in thy fist, And kist thee, too, and hugd thee in my armes.

62 mistress Alice Q 3: M. Arden WP 67 haue om. Q 3 67-73 Verse Qq: corr. D 72 then] than I haue WP 84 haue cram'd Q 3: cramme Q 1 85 mine Q 2, 3

Wil. Patient your selfe, we can not help it now. 86

Greene and we two will dogge him through the faire,

And stab him in the croud, and steale away.

Here enters Mosbye.

Ales. It is vnpossible; but here comes he That will, I hope, inuent some surer meanes. Swete Mosbie, hide thy arme, it kills my hart.

Mos. I, mistres Arden, this is your fauour.

Ales. Ah, say not so; for when I sawe thee hurt,

I could haue toke the weapon thou letst fall, And runne at Arden; for I haue sworne 95 That these mine eyes, offended with his sight, Shall neuer close till Ardens be shut vp.

This night I rose and walkt about the chamber, And twice or thrise I thought to haue murthred him.

Mos. What, in the night? then had we bene vndone. 100

Ales. Why, how long shall he liue?

Mos. Faith, Ales, no longer then this night.—

Black Will and shakbag, will you two performe The complot that I haue laid?

Will. I, or els think me a villaine. 105

Gre. And rather then you shall want, Ile helpe my selfe.

Mos. You, M(aister) Greene, shal single Francklin foorth,

And hould him with a long tale of strange newes,

That he may not come home till suppertime. Ile fetch M(aister) Arden home, & we like frends 110

Will play a game or two at tables here.

Ales. But what of all this? how shall he be slaine?

Mosbie. Why, black Wil and shakebag lockt within the countinghouse

Shall at a certaine watchword giuen rush foorth.

Wil. What shall the watch word be? 115

Mos. 'Now I take you' that shall be the word:

But come not forth before in any case.

Wil. I warrant you. But who shall lock me in?

Ales. That will I do; thou'st kepe the key thy selfe.

Mos. Come, M(aister) Greene, go you along with me. 120

103 ends two Qq: corr. WP 105 a] as a Q 1 106 Two lines Qq, dic. want 112 Two lines Qq, dic. this 119 do om. Q 3 thou'st] thou't Q 3

See all things ready, Ales, against we come.

Ales. Take no care for that; send you him home,
[*Exeunt Mosbie and Greene.*]
And if he ere go forth againe, blame me.

Come, blacke Will, that in mine eies art faire;
Next vnto Mosbie doe I honour thee; 125

Instead of faire wordes and large promises
My hands shall play you goulden harmonie:
How like you this? say, will you doe it, sirs?

Will. I, and that brauely too. Marke my deuice:

Place Mosbie, being a stranger, in a chaire, 130
And let your husband sit vpon a stoole,
That I may come behind him cunninglie,
And with a towell pull him to the ground,
Then stab him till his flesh be as a siue;
That doone, beare him behind the Abby, 135
That those that finde him murdered may suppose

Some slaue or other kild him for his golde.

Ales. A fine deuice: you shall haue twenty pound,
And when he is dead, you shal haue forty more.
And then you might be suspected staying heere, 140

Michael shall saddle you two lusty geldings;
Ryde whether you will, to Scotland, or to Wales,

Ile see you shall not lacke, where ere you be.

Wil. Such wordes would make one kill 1000. men.

Giue me the key: which is the counting house?

Ales. Here would I stay and still encourage you, 146

But that I know how resolute you are.

Sha. Tush, you are too faint harted; we must do it.

Ales. But Mosbie will be there, whose very lookes

Will ad vnwounded courage to my thought, 150
And make me the first that shall aduenture on him.

Wil. Tush, get you gone; tis we must do the deede.

When this doore oppens next, looke for his death. (*Exeunt Will and Shakebag.*)

Ales. Ah, would he now were here that it might open!

I shall no more be closed in Ardens armes, 155
That lyke the snakes of blacke Tisiphone
Sting me with their embraceings: mosbies Armes

Shal compasse me, and, were I made a starre,
I would haue none other spheres but those.
There is no nector but in Mosbies lypes! 160

124 my Q 3 134 siue Q 3: sine Q 1 153 S. D.
add. W P

Had chast Diana kist him, she like me
Would grow loue sicke and from her watrie bower

Fling down Endimion and snatch him vp:
Then blame not me that slay a silly man
Not halfe so louely as Endimion. 165

Here enters Michael.

Mic. Mistres, my maister is comming hard by.

Ales. Who comes with him?

Michael. Nobody but mosbye.

Ales. Thats well, michael. Fetch in the tables,

And when thou hast done, stand before the countinghouse doore. 170

Mic. Why so?

Ales. Black will is lockt within to do the deede.

Mic. What? shall he die to night?

Ales. I, michael.

Mic. But shall not susan know it? 175

Ales. Yes, for shele be as secretee as our selues.

Mic. Thats braue. Ile go fetch the tables.

Ales. But, michael, hearken to me a word or two:

When my husband is come in, lock the streete doore; 179

He shall be murthred, or the guests come in. [*Exit mic.*]

Here enters Arden & Mosbie.

Husband, what meane you to bring mosby home?

Although I wisht you to be reconciled,
Twas more for feare of you then loue of him.
Black Will and Greene are his companions,
And they are cutters, and may cut you shorte:
Therefore I thought it good to make you frends.
But wherefore do you bring him hether now?
You haue giuen me my supper with his sight.

Mos. M(aister) Arden, me thinks your wife would haue me gone.

Arden. No, good M(aister) Mosbie; women will be prating. 190

Ales, bid him welcome; he and I are frends.

Ales. You may inforce me to it, if you will;
But I had rather die then bid him welcome.

His company hath purchest me ill frends,
And therefore wil I nere frequent it more. 195

Mos. — Oh, how cunningly she can dissembles!

Ard. Now he is here, you wil not serue me so.

163 snath Q 1 180 or Q 1: ere Q 3: or e'er J
182 Althought Q 1 190 prattling Q 3

Ales. I pray you be not angree or displeased;
Ile bid him welcome, seing youle haue it so.
You are welcome, M(aister) Mosbie; will you sit down? ²⁰⁰

Mos. I know I am welcome to your louing husband;
But for your selfe, you speake not from your hart.

Ales. And if I do not, sir, think I haue cause.

Mos. Pardon me, M(aister) Arden; Ile away.

Ard. No, good M(aister) Mosbie. ²⁰⁵

Ales. We shal haue guests enough, thogh you go hence.

Mos. I pray you, M(aister) Arden, let me go.

Ard. I pray thee, Mosbie, let her prate her fill.

Ale. The dores are open, sir, you may be gone.

Mic. — Nay, thats a lye, for I haue lockt the dores. ²¹⁰

Ard. Sirra, fetch me a cup of Wine, Ile make them freends.

And, gentle M(istris) Ales, seeing you are so stout,

You shal beginne: frowne not, Ile haue it so.

Ales. I pray you meddle with that you haue. to do.

Ard. Why, Ales! how can I do too much for him ²¹⁵

Whose lyfe I haue endangered without cause?

Ale. Tis true; & seeing twas partly through my means,

I am content to drinke to him for this once.

Here, M(aister) Mosbie! and I pray you, henceforth

Be you as straunge to me as I to you. ²²⁰

Your company hath purchased me ill freends,

And I for you, God knowes, haue vnderserued

Beene ill spoken of in euery place;

Therefore hencefoorth frequent my house no more.

Mos. Ile see your husband in dispiight of you. ²²⁵

Yet, Arden, I protest to thee by heauen,

Thou nere shalt see me more after this night.

Ile go to Roome rather then be forsworne.

Ar. Tush, Ile haue no such vowes made in my house.

Ales. Yes, I pray you, husband, let him sweare; ²³⁰

And, on that condition, Mosbie, pledge me here.

Mos. I, as willingly as I meane to liue.

²¹¹ Two lines Qq. div. Wine ²²⁰ you as as Q 3
²³¹ Mosbie om. Q 3

Ard. Come, Ales, is our supper ready yet?

Ales. It wil by then you haue plaid a game at tables.

Ard. Come, M(aister) Mosbie, what shall we play for? ²³⁵

Mos. Three games for a french crowne, sir, and please you.

Ard. Content.

Then they play at the Tables. (Enter Will and Shakebag).

Wil. — Can he not take him yet? what a spight is that?

Ales. — Not yet, Will; take hede he see thee not.

Wil. — I feare he will spy me as I am coming. ²⁴⁰

Mic. — To preuent that, creepe betwixt my legs.

Mos. One ace, or els I lose the game.

Ard. Mary, sir, theres two for fayling.

Mos. Ah, M(aister) Arden, 'now I can take you.'

Then Will pulles him down with a towell.

Ard. Mosbie! Michael! Ales! what will you do? ²⁴⁵

Will. Nothing but take you vp, sir, nothing els.

Mos. Thers for the pressing Iron you tould me of. (Stabs him.)

Sha. And ther's for the ten pound in my sleeue. (Stabs him.)

Ales. What! grones thou? nay, then giue me the weapon! ²⁴⁹

Take this for hindring Mosbies loue and mine.

(She stabs him.)

Michael. O, Mistres!

Will. Ah, that villaine wil betray vs all.

Mos. Tush, feare him not; he will be secrete.

Mic. Why, dost thou think I will betray my selfe?

Sha. In Southwarke dwels a bonnie north-erne lasse, ²⁵⁵

The widow Chambley; ile to her house now,

And if she wil not giue me harborough,

Ile make bootie of the queane euen to her smocke.

Will. Shift for your selues; we two will leaue you now.

Ales. First lay the bodie in the counting-house. ²⁶⁰

Then they lay the body in the Countinghouse.

²³⁶ Two lines Qq. div. sir ²³⁷ S. D. Bracketed words
add. WP ²³⁸ yet om. Q 3 ²⁴⁷⁻⁵⁰ S. D. D. add. T
²⁵⁷ And] Ind Q 1

Will. We haue our gould; mistris Ales, adew;

Mosbie, farewell, and Michael, farewell too.
[*Exeunt.*]

Enter Susan.

Susan. Mistres, the guests are at the doores. Hearken, they knocke: what, shall I let them in? 264

Ales. Mosbie, go thou & beare them companie. [Exit M.]

And, susan, fetch water and wash away this blood.

Susan. The blood cleaueth to the ground & will not out.

Ales. But with my nailes ile scrape away the blood;—

The more I striue, the more the blood appeares!

Susan. Whats the reason, M(istris), can you tell? 270

Ales. Because I blush not at my husbands death.

Here enters Mosbie.

Mos. How now? whats the matter? is all well?

Ales. I, wel, if Arden were alieu againe. In vaine we striue, for here his blood remains.

Mos. Why, strew rushes on it, can you not? 275

This wench doth nothing: fall vnto the worke.

Ales. Twas thou that made me murder him.

Mos. What of that?

Ales. Nay, nothing, Mosbie, so it be not known.

Mos. Keepe thou it close, and tis vnpossible. 280

Ales. Ah, but I can not! was he not slaine by me?

My husbands death torments me at the hart.

Mos. It shall not long torment thee, gentle Ales;

I am thy husband, thinke no more of him.

Here enters Adam fowle and Brad.

Brad. How now, M(istris) Arden? what ayle you weepe? 285

Mos. Because her husband is abroad so late.

A cupple of Ruffins threatned him yesternight, And she, poore soule, is affraid he should be hurt.

Adam. Ist nothing els? tush, hele be here anone.

Here enters Greene.

Gre. Now, M(istris) Arden, lacke you any guests? 290

Ales. Ah, M(aister) Greene, did you see my husband lately?

Gre. I saw him walking behinde the Abby euen now.

Here enters Francklin.

Ales. I do not like this being out so late. — M(aister) Francklin, where did you leaue my husband?

Fra. Beleeue me I saw him not since Morning. 295

Feare you not, hele come anone; meane time You may do well to bid his guests sit down.

Ales. I, so they shall; M(aister) Bradshaw, sit you there;

I pray you, be content, Ile haue my will. 299 M(aister) Mosbie, sit you in my husbands seat.

Michael. — Susan, shall thou and I wait on them?

Or, and thou saist the word, let vs sit down too.

Su. — Peace, we haue other matters now in hand.

I feare me, Michael, al wilbe bewtraied. 304

Mic. — Tush, so it be knowne that I shal marry thee in the morning, I care not though I be hangde ere night.

But to preuent the worst, Ile by some rats bane.

Su. — Why, Michael, wilt thou poyson thy selfe?

Mic. — No, but my mistres, for I feare shele tell. 310

Su. — Tush, Michel; feare not her, she's wise enough.

Mos. — Sirra Michell, giues a cup of beare. —

M(istris) Arden, heers to your husband.

Ales. My husband!

Fra. What ailes you, woman, to crie so suddenly? 315

Ales. Ah, neighbors, a sudden qualm came ouer my hart;

My husbands being forth torments my mynde. I know some thing's amisse, he is not well;

Or els I should haue heard of him ere now.

Mo. — She will vndo vs through her foolishnes. 320

Gre. Feare not, M(istris) Arden, he's well enough.

Ales. Tell not me; I know he is not well:

He was not wount for to stay thus late.

Good M(aister) Francklin, go and seeke him forth, 324

And if you finde him, send him home to mee,

And tell him what a feare he hath put me in.
Fra. — I lyke not this; I pray God all be well.
 He seeke him out, and find him if I can.

[*Exeunt Fra., Mos., & Gre.*]

Ales. — Michael, how shall I doo to rid the rest away?

Mic. — Leauē that to my charge, let me alone. — 330

Tis very late, M^a(aister) Bradshaw,
 And there are many false knaues abroad,
 And you haue many narrow lanes to pas.

Brad. Faith, frend Michael, and thou saiest trow.

Therefore I pray thee lights foorth and lends a linck. 335

[*Exeunt Brad., Adam, & Michael.*]

Ales. Michael, bring them to the dores, but doo not stay;

You know I do not loue to be alone.

— Go, Susan, and bid thy brother come:

But wherefore should he come? Heere is nought but feare;

Stay, Susan, stay, and helpe to counsell me. 340

Susan. Alas, I counsell! feare frights away my wits.

Then they open the countinghouse doore and looke vppon Arden.

Ales. See, Susan, where thy quandam Maister lyes,

Sweete Arden, smeard in bloode and filthygore.

Susan. My brother, you, and I shall rue this deede.

Ales. Come, susan, help to lift his body forth, 345

And let our salt teares be his obsequies.

Here enters Mosbie and Greene.

Mos. How now, Ales, whether will you beare him?

Ales. Sweete Mosbie, art thou come? Then weepe that will:

I haue my wishe in that I ioy thy sight.

Gre. Well, it houes vs to be circumspect. 350

Mos. I, for Franklin thinks that we haue murthred him.

Ales. I, but he can not proue it for his lyfe. Wele spend this night in daliance and in sport.

Here enters Michael.

Mic. O mistres, the Maior and all the watch Are comming towards our house with glaues & billes. 355

Ales. Make the dore fast; let them not come in.

S. D. follows 327 Qq 333 narrow om. *Q 3* 335
light's . . lend's Q 3 343 filthy om. *Q 2, 3* 348
Two lines Qq, dir. come 354 all om. *Q 3*

Mos. Tell me, swete Ales, how shal I escape?

Ales. Out at the back dore, ouer the pyle of woode,

And for one night ly at the floure de luce.

Mos. That is the next way to betray my selfe. 360

Gre. Alas, M^a(istris) Arden, the watch will take me here,

And cause suspition, where els would be none.

Ales. Why, take that way that M^a(aister) Mosbie doeth;

But first conuey the body to the fields.

Then they beare the body into the fields.

Mos. Vntil to morrow, sweete Ales, now farewel: 365

And see you confesse nothing in any case.

Gre. Be resolute, M^a(istris) Ales, betray vs not,

But cleaue to vs as we wil stick to you.

[*Exeunt Mosbie & Grene.*]

Ales. Now, let the iudge and iuries do their worst: 369

My house is cleare, and now I feare them not.

Susan. As we went, it snowed al the way, Which makes me feare our footsteps will be spied.

Ales. Peace, foole, the snow wil couer them againe.

Susan. But it had done before we came back againe.

Ales. Hearke, hearke, they knocke! go, Michael, let them in. 375

Here enters the Maior and the Watch.

How now, M^a(aister) Maior, haue you brought my husband home?

Maior. I sawe him come into your house an hour agoe.

Ales. You are deceiued; it was a Londoner.

Maior. Mistres Arden, know you not one that is called blacke Will?

Ales. I know none such: what meane these questions? 380

Maior. I haue the counsels warrand to aprehend him.

Ales. — I am glad it is no worse.

Why, M^a(aister) maior, thinke you I harbour any such?

Ma. We are informd that here he is;

And therefore pardon vs, for we must search.

Ales. I, search, and spare you not, through euery roome: 386

Were my husband at home, you would not offer this.

375 Two lines *Qq*, dir. knocke

Here enters Francklin.

M(aister) Francklin, what meane you come so sad?

Fra. Arden, thy husband and my freend, is slaine.

Ales. Ah! by whome? M(aister) Francklin, can you tell? 390

Fra. I know not; but behind the abby There he lyes murthred in most pittious case.

Mai. But, M(aister) Francklin, are you sure tis he?

Fra. I am too sure; would God I were deceiued.

Ales. Finde out the Murthrers, let them be knowne. 395

Fran. I, so they shall; come you along with vs.

Ales. Wherefore?

Fran. Know you this handtowel and this knyfe?

Su. — Ah, michael, through this thy negligence

Thou hast betraied and vndone vs all. 400

Mic. — I was so affraide I knew not what I did:

I thought I had throwne them both into the well.

Ales. It is the pigs bloode we had to supper.

But wherfore stay you? finde out the murthrers.

Ma. I feare me youle proue one of them your selfe. 405

Ales. I one of them? what meane such questions?

Fra. I feare me he was murthred in this house

And carried to the fields; for from that place Backwards and forwards may you see

The print of many feete within the snow. 410

And looke about this chamber where we are, And you shall finde part of his gittles bloode;

For in his slipshoe did I finde some rushes, Which argueth he was murthred in this roome.

Ma. Looke in the place where he was wont to sit. 415

See, seel his blood! it is too manifest.

Ales. It is a cup of Wine that michael shed.

Mic. I, truely.

Fran. It is his bloode, which, strumpet, thou hast shed.

But if I liue, thou and thy complices 420

Which haue conspired and wrought his death shall rue it.

393 you om. Q3 421 Two lines Qq, div. death

Ales. Ah, M(aister) Francklin, God and heauen can tell

I loued him more than all the world beside.

But bring me to him, let me see his body.

Fra. Bring that villaine and mosbies sister too; 425

And one of you go to the flowre de luce, And seeke for mosbie, and apprehend him to. [Exeunt.]

(SCENE II.

An obscure street in London.)

Here enters shakebag solus.

Sh. The widdow chamblly, in her husbands dayes,

I kept; and now he's dead, she is growne so stout

She will not know her ould companions.

I came thither, thinking to haue had

Harbour as I was wount, 5

And she was ready to thrust me out at doores;

But whether she would or no, I got me vp,

And as she followed me, I spurnd her down the staires,

And broke her neck, and cut her tapsters throat,

And now I am going to fling them in the Temes. 10

I haue the gould; what care I though it be knowne!

Ile crosse the water and take sanctuary.

[Exit shakbag.]

(SCENE III.

Arden's House at Feversham.)

Here enters the Maior, Mosbie, Ales, Francklin, Michael, and Susan.

Maior. See, M(istis) Arden, where your husband lyes;

Confesse this foule fault and be penitent.

Ales. Arden, sweete husband, what shall I say?

The more I sound his name, the more he bleedes;

This bloode condemnes me, and in gushing foorth 5

Speakes as it falles, and askes me why I did it.

Forgiue me, Arden: I repent me now,

And, would my death saue thine, thou shouldst not dye.

Ryse vp, swete Arden, and enioy thy loue, And frowne not on me when we mete in heauen: 10

Scene II. etc. add. T 1 ends kept Qq 7 got] goe Q3 Scene III. etc. add. T

In heauen I loue thee, though on earth I did not.

Maior. Say, Mosby, what made thee murder him?

Fra. Study not for an answer; looke not down:

His purse and girdle found at thy beds head
 Witnes sufficiently thou didst the deede; 15
 It bootles is to sweare thou didst it not.

Mos. I hyred black Will and Shakebagge, Ruffynes both,

And they and I haue done this murthrous deed.
 But wherefore stay we? Come and beare me hence.

Fran. Those Ruffins shall not escape; I will vp to London, 20

And get the counsels warrand to apprehend them. [Exeunt.

(SCENE IV.

The Kentish Coast.)

Here enters Will.

Will. Shakebag, I heare, hath taken sanctuary,

But I am so pursued with hues and cryes
 For petty robberies that I haue done,

That I can come vnto no Sanctuary.
 Therefore must I in some Oyster bote 5

At last be faine to go a boord some Hoye,
 And so to Flushing. There is no staying here.

At Sittinburgh the watch was like to take me,
 And had I not with my buckler couerd my head,

And run full blank at all aduentures, 10
 I am sure I had nere gone further then that place;

For the Constable had 20 warrands to apprehend me;

Besides that, I robbed him and his Man once at Gades hill.

Farewell, England; Ile to Flushing now.

[Exit Will.

(SCENE V.

Justice-Room at Feversham.)

Here enters the Maior, Mosbye, Ales, Michaell, Susan, and Bradshaw.

Maior. Come, make haste & bring away the prisoners.

Brad. M(istris) Arden, you are now going to God,

11 I] I U T 17 Two lines Qq 19 Two lines Qq
 20 ends escape Qq Scene IV. etc. add. T 8 Sittinburn J
 9 I not] not I Q3, etc. Scene V.
 etc. add. T 2 M. Q1: Master Q3

And I am by the law condemned to die
 About a letter I brought from M(aister) Greene.

I pray you, M(istris) Arden, speak the truth: 5

Was I euer priuie to your intent or no.

Ales. What should I say? You brought me such a letter,

But I dare sweare thou knewest not the contents.

Leaue now to trouble me with worldly things,
 And let me meditate vpon my sauour Christ, 10

Whose blood must saue me for the blood I shed.

Mos. How long shall I liue in this hell of griefe?

Conuey me from the presence of that strumpet.

Ales. Ah, but for thee I had neuer beene (a) strumpet.

What can not oathes and protestations doe, 15
 When men haue opportunity to woe?

I was too young to sound thy villanies,
 But now I finde it and repent too late.

Su. Ah, gentle brother, wherefore should I die?

I knew not of it till the deed was don. 20

Mos. For thee I mourne more then for my selfe;

But let it suffice, I can not saue thee now.

Mic. And if your brother and my Mistres
 Had not promised me you in marriage,

I had nere giuen consent to this foule deede. 25
Maior. Leaue to accuse each other now

And listen to the sentence I shall giue:
 Beare Mosbie and his sister to London straight,

Where they in smithfield must be executed;
 Beare M(istris) Arden vnto Canterburye, 30

Where her sentence is she must be burnt;
 Michael and Bradshaw in Feuershame

Must suffer death.

Ales. Let my death make amends for all my sinnes.

Mos. Fy vpon women! this shall be my song; 35

But beare me hence, for I haue liued to long.

Susan. Seing no hope on earth, in heauen is my hope.

Mic. Faith, I care not, seeing I die with Susan.

Bradshaw. My blood be on his head that gaue the sentence. 39

Maior. To speedy execution with them all! [Exeunt.

7 Two lines Qq 14 a add. J 22 But om. J
 32-3 Two lines Q3: one line Q1 34 sinne Q3

(EPILOGUE.)

Heere enters Francklin.

Fran. Thus haue you seene the trueth of
 Ardens death.
 As for the Ruffins, Shakbag and blacke Will,
 The one tooke Sanctuary, and, being sent for
 out,
 Was murthred in Southwark as he past 4
 To Greenewitch, where the Lord Protector lay.
 Black Will was burnt in Flushing on a stage;
 Greene was hanged at Osbridge in Kent;
 The Painter fled & how he dyed we know not.

Epilogue: Scene VI WP 6 at a stake J 7
 Osbringe J

But this about the rest is to be noted:
 Arden lay murthred in that plot of ground 10
 Which he by force and violence held from
 Rede;
 And in the grasse his bodyes print was seene
 Two yeeres and more after the deede was
 doone.
 Gentlemen, we hope youle pardon this naked
 Tragedy,
 Wherin no filed points are foisted in 15
 To make it gracious to the eare or eye;
 For simple trueth is gracious enough,
 And needes no other points of glosing stuffe.

FINIS.

T H E
Lamentable Tragedie of

Locrine, the eldest sonne of King *Brutus*, discour-
sing the warres of the *Britaines*, and *Hunnes*,
with their discomfiture:

*The Britaines victorie with their Accidents, and the
death of Albanaet. Nolesse pleasant then
profitable.*

Newly set foorth, ouerseene and corrected,
By *W. S.*



L O N D O N
Printed by Thomas Creede.
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T = Tyrrell, 1851
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THE LAMENTABLE TRAGEDIE OF LOCRINE,

THE ELDEST SONNE OF KING BRVTVS, DISCOVERSING
THE WARRES OF THE BRITAINES AND HVNNES,
WITH THEIR DISCOMFITVRE, THE BRITAINES
VICTORY WITH THEIR ACCIDENTS, AND
THE DEATH OF ALBANACT

(DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

BRUTUS, *King of Britain.*

LOCRINE, }
CAMBER, } *his Sons.*
ALBANACT, }

CORINEIUS, } *Brothers to Brutus.*
ASSARACHUS, }

THRASIMACHUS, *Corineius his Son.*

DEBON, *an old Officer.*

HUMBER, *King of the Scythians.*

HUBBA, *his Son.*

THRASSIER, *a Scythian Commander.*

STRUMBO, }
TRUMPART, } *Clowns.*
OLIVER, }
WILLIAM, }

GUENDOLINE, *Corineius his Daughter, married
to Locrine.*

ESTRILD, *Humber's Wife.*

ATE, *the Goddess of Revenge.*

Ghosts of Albanact, and Corineius.)

The first Act. Prologue.

*Enter Atey with thunder and lightning all in
black, with a burning torch in one hand,
and a bloodie sword in the other hand, and
presently let there come fourth a Lion run-
ning after a Beare or any other beast; then
come fourth an Archer who must kill the
Lion in a dumbe show, and then depart.
Remaine Atey.*

Atey. In pœnam sectatur & Vmbra.

A Mightie Lion, ruler of the woods,
Of wondrous strength and great proportion,
With hideous noyse scarring the trembling
trees,

With yelling clamors shaking all the earth,
Trauerst the groues, and chast the wandring
beasts. 5

Long did he raunge amid the shadie trees,
And draue the silly beasts before his face,
When suddenly from out a thornie bush,
A dreadfull Archer with his bow ybent,
Wounded the Lion with a dismall shaft. 10
So he him stroke that it drew forth the blood,
And fild his furious heart with fretting yre;
But all in vaine he threatneth teeth and pawes,
And sparkleth fire from forth his flaming
eies,

For the sharpe shaft gaue him a mortall
wound. 15

So valiant Brute, the terror of the world,
Whose only lookes did scarre his enemies,
The Archer death brought to his latest end.
Oh what may long abide about this ground,
In state of blisse and healthfull happinesse. 20
[Exit.

The first Act. Scene 1.

*Enter Brutus carried in a chaire, Locrine,
Camber, Albanact, Corineius, Guendelin,
Assaracus, Debon, Thrasimachus.*

Brutus. Most loyall Lords and faithful fol-
lowers,

That haue with me, vnworthie General,
Passed the greedie gulfe of Ocean,
Leauing the confines of faire *Italie*,
Behold, your *Brutus* draweth nigh his end, 5
And I must leaue you, though against my
will.

My sinewes shrunke, my numbed sences faile,
A chilling cold posseseth all my bones;
Blacke vgly death, with visage pale and
wanne,
Presents himselfe before my dazeled eies, 10
And with his dart prepared is to strike.
These armes my Lords, these neuer daunted
armes,

S. D. Scene 1] Scene 2 Q 7 shrink M

Dramatis Personae add. Rowe S. D. Prologue]
Scene 1 Q 11 strook Ff

That oft haue queld the courage of my foes,
And eke dismayd my neighbours arrogancie,
Now yeeld to death, ore laid with crooked age,
Deuoyd of strength and of their proper force,
Euen as the lustie cedar worne with yeares, 17
That farre abroad her daintie odore throwes,
Mongst all the daughters of proud Lebanon.
This heart, my Lords, this neare appalled heart,
That was a terror to the bordring lands, 21
A dolefull scourge vnto my neighbor Kings,
Now by the weapons of vnpartiall death,
Is cloue asunder and bereft of life,
As when the sacred oake with thunderbolts,
Sent from the fiery circuit of the heauens, 26
Sliding along the aires celestiaall valts,
Is rent and clouen to the verie rootes.
In vaine, therefore, I strangle with this foe;
Then welcome death, since God will haue it so.

Assar. Alasse, my Lord, we sorrow at your case, 31

And greeue to see your person vexed thus;
But what so ere the fates determind haue,
It lieth not in vs to disannull,
And he that would annihilate his minde, 35
Soaring with *Icarus* too neare the Sunne,
May catch a fall with yong *Bellerophon*.
For when the fatall sisters haue decreed
To separate vs from this earthly mould,
No mortall force can countermaund their
minds: 40

Then, worthie Lord, since ther's no way but
one,
Cease your laments, and leaue your grievous
mone.

Corin. Your highnesse knows how many
victories,

How many trophees I erected haue
Tryumphantly in euery place we came. 45
The Grecian Monarke, warlike *Pandrasus*,
And all the crew of the Molossians;
Goffarius, the arme strong King of *Gaules*,
And all the borders of great *Aquitane*,
Haue felt the force of our victorious armes,
And to their cost beheld our chualrie. 51
Where ere *Aurora*, handmayd of the Sunne,
Where ere the Sun, bright gardiant of the
day,

Where ere the ioyfull day with chearfull light,
Where ere the light illuminates the world, 55
The Troyans glorie flies with golden wings,
Wings that do soare beyond fell enuies flight.
The fame of *Brutus* and his followers
Pearce the skies, and with the skies the
throne

Of mightie *Ioue*, Commaunder of the world. 60
Then worthie *Brutus*, leaue these sad laments;
Comfort your selfe with this your great re-
nowne,

And feare not death though he seeme terrible.
Brutus. Nay, *Corin(e)us*, you mistake my
mynd

In construing wrong the cause of my com-
plaints. 65

I feard to yeeld my selfe to fatall death!
God knowes it was the least of all my
thought(s);

A greater care torments my verie bones,
And makes me tremble at the thought of it,
And in you, Lordings, doth the substance
lie. 70

Thrasí. Most noble Lord, if ought your
loyall peers

Accomplish may, to ease your lingring grief,
I, in the name of all, protest to you,
That we will boldly enterprise the same,
Were it to enter to black *Tartarus*, 75

Where triple *Cerberus* with his venomous
throte,

Scarreth the ghoasts with high resounding
noyse.

Wele either rent the bowels of the earth,
Searching the entrailes of the brutish earth,
Or, with his *Ixions* ouerdaring sonne, 80
Be bound in chaines of euerduring steele.

Bru. Then harken to your soueraigns latest
words,

In which I will vnto you all vnfold
Our royall mind and resolute intent:—
When golden *Hebe*, daughter to great *Ioue*,
Couered my manly cheeks with youthfull
downe, 86

Th' unhappie slaughter of my lucklesse sire,
Droue me and old *Assarachus*, mine eame,
As exiles from the bounds of *Italy*;
So that perforce we were constrained to flie 90
To *Gracias* Monarke noble *Pandrasus*.
There I alone did undertake your cause,
There I restord your antique libertie,
Though *Grecia* fround, and all *Mollossia*
stormd,

Though braue *Antigonus*, with martiall band,
In pitched field encountred me and mine, 96
Though *Pandrasus* and his contributories,
With all the rout of their confederates,
Sought to deface our glorious memorie
And wipe the name of *Troians* from the
earth. 100

Him did I captiuate with this mine arme,
And by compulsion forest him to agree

29 strangle Q: struggle Ff, etc. 35 their minds
M 49 om. Ff, etc. 52 Ancora Q 53 Sun-
bright Q 55 world word Q 57 enuious Q. Ff

67 thought all add. 80 son M: soone Q: soon
Ff 91 Gracias Q. Ff

To certain artickles which there we did propound.

From *Græcia* through the boisterous *Hellespont*,

We came vnto the fields of *Lestrigon*, 105

Whereas our brother *Corineus* was.

Since when we passed the *Cicillian* gulfe,

And so transfretting the *Illirian* sea,

Arriued on the coasts of *Aquitane*,

Where with an armie of his barbarous *Gaules*

Goffarius and his brother *Gathelus* 111

Encountering with our hoast, sustained the foile.

And for your sakes my *Turnus* there I lost,

Turnus that slew six hundreth men at armes

All in an houre, with his sharpe battle-axe.

From thence vpon the strons of *Albion* 116

To *Corus* hauen happily we came,

And queld the giants, comme of *Albions* race,

With *Gogmagog* sonne to *Samotheus*,

The cursed Captaine of that damned crew. 120

And in that Ile at length I placed you.

Now let me see if my laborious toiles,

If all my care, if all my greeuous wounds,

If all my diligence were well imloid.

Corin. When first I followed thee & thine,

braue king, 125

I hazarded my life and dearest blood,

To purchase fauour at your princely hands,

And for the same in daungerous attempts

In sundry conflicts and in diuers broiles,

I shewed the courage of my manly mind. 130

For this I combated with *Gathelus*,

The brother to *Goffarius* of *Gaule*;

For this I fought with furious *Gogmagog*,

A sauge captaine of a sauge crew; 134

And for these deeds braue *Cornwale* I receiu'd,

A gratefull gift giuen by a gracious King;

And for this gift, this life and dearest blood,

Will *Corineus* spend for *Brutus* good.

Deb. And what my frend, braue prince,

hath vould to you,

The same wil *Debon* do vnto his end. 140

Bru. Then, loyall peeres, since you are all

agreed,

And resolute to follow *Brutus* hoasts,

Fauour my sonnes, fauour these *Orphans*,

Lords,

And shield them from the daungers of their foes.

Locrine, the columnne of my familie, 145

And onely pillar of my weakned age,

Locrine, draw neare, draw neare vnto thy sire,

And take thy latest blessings at his hands:

And for thou art the eldest of my sonnes,

Be thou a captaine to thy bretheren, 150

And imitate thy aged fathers steps,

Which wil conduct thee to true honors gate;

For if thou follow sacred vertues lore,

Thou shalt be crowned with a lawrell braunch,

And weare a wreath of sempiternall fame,

Sorted amongst the glorious happie ones. 156

Locrin. If *Locrine* do not follow your

aduse,

And beare himselfe in all things like a prince

That seekes to amplifie the great renowne

Left vnto him for an inheritage 160

By those that were his ancestors,

Let me be flung into the Ocean,

And swallowed in the bowels of the earth,

Or let the ruddie lightning of great *Ioue*

Descend vpon this my deuoted head. 165

Brutus (taking *Guendoline* by the hand).

But for I see you all to be in doubt,

Who shall be matched with our royall sonne,

Locrine, receiue this present at my hand,

A gift more rich then are the wealthie mines

Found in the bowels of *America*. 170

Thou shalt be spoused to faire *Guendoline*;

Loue her, and take her, for she is thine

owne,

If so thy vnckle and her selfe do please.

Corin. And herein how your highnes honors

me

It cannot (now) be in my speech exprest; 175

For careful parents glorie not so much

At their honour and promotion,

As for to see the issue of their blood

Seated in honor and prosperitie.

Guend. And far be it from any maydens

thoughts 180

To contradict her aged fathers will.

Therefore, since he to whom I must obey

Hath giuen me now vnto your royall selfe,

I will not stand aloofe from off the lure,

Like craftie dames that most of all deny 185

That which they most desire to possesse.

Brutus (turning to *Locrine*. *Locrine kneel-*

ing). Then now, my sonne, thy part is

on the stage,

For thou must beare the person of a King.

[*Puts the Crowne on his head*.

Locrine, stand vp, and weare the regall

Crowne,

And thinke vpon the state of *Maiestie*, 190

That thou with honor well maist weare the

crown.

And if thou tendrest these my latest words,

103 which there om. *M* 107 Since *M*: Which *Q*, *Ff*
Cilician *M* 108 transfreighting *Molt*. Illician *Q*.
Ff 116 stronds *Ff* 118 come *Q* 142 hests *M*

161 his] his glorious *M* 165 deuotied *Q* 175
now add. *Ff* 177 their] their own *M* 180 any
conj. *Th*: my *Q*: my pure *Ff* Maiden *Ff*

As thou requir'st my soule to be at rest,
 As thou desirest thine owne securitie,
 Cherish and loue thy new betrothed wife. 105
Locrin. No longer let me wel enioy the
 crowne,

Then I do (honour) peerlesse *Guendoline*.
Brut. *Camber.*

Cam. My Lord.

Brut. The glorie of mine age,
 And darling of thy mother *Innogen*,
 Take thou the South for thy dominion. 200
 From thee there shall proceed a royall race,
 That shall maintaine the honor of this land,
 And sway the regall scepter with their hands.

[Turning to Albanact.

And *Albanact*, thy fathers onely ioy,
 Youngst in yeares, but not the youngest in mind,
 A perfect patterne of all chiuallrie, 206
 Take thou the North for thy dominion,
 A country full of hills and ragged rockes,
 Replenished with feare vntamed beasts,
 As correspondent to thy martiall thoughts.
 Liue long, my sonnes, with endlesse happi-
 nesse, 211

And beare firme concordance amongst your
 selues.

Obeie the counsels of these fathers graue,
 That you may better beare out violence.—
 But suddenly, through weaknesse of my age,
 And the defect of youthfull puissance, 216
 My maladie increaseth more and more,
 And cruell death hastneth his quickned pace,
 To dispossesse me of my earthly shape.
 Mine eies wax dimme, ouercast with clouds of
 age, 220

The pangs of death compasse my crazed
 bones;

Thus to you all my blessings I bequeath,
 And with my blessings, this my fleeting soule.
 My glasse is runne, and all my miseries 224
 Do end with life; death closeth vp mine eies,
 My soule in haste flies to the Elisian fields.

[He dieth.

Loc. Accursed starres, damd and accursed
 starres,

To abreuiate my noble fathers life!
 Hard-harted gods, and too enuious fates,
 Thus to cut off my fathers fatall thred! 230
Brutus, that was a glorie to vs all,
Brutus, that was a terror to his foes,
 Alasse, too soone, by *Demagorgons* knife,
 The martiall *Brutus* is bereft of life!

197 do honour peerlesse M: do peerlesse Q. Ff:
 do honour Haz. 199 Innoger Q. Ff: corr. Th
 203 And] That Q. Ff 204 onely] other conj. S
 212 concordance firm among S 229 and ye
 too S

Corin. No sad complaints may moue iust
Aeacus, 235
 No dreadful threats can feare iudge *Rho-*
domanth.

Wert thou as strong as mightie *Hercules*,
 That tamde the hugie monsters of the world,
 Plaidst thou as sweet, on the sweet sounding
 lute,

As did the spouse of faire *Euridise*, 240
 That did enchant the waters with his noise,
 And made stones, birds, and beasts, to lead a
 dance,

Constrained the hillie trees to follow him,
 Thou couldest not moue the iudge of *Erebus*,
 Nor moue compassion in grimme *Plutos*
 heart; 245

For fatall *Mors* expecteth all the world,
 And euerie man must tread the way of death.

Braue *Tantalus*, the valiant *Pelops* sire,
 Guest to the gods, suffred vntimely death,
 And old *Tithonus*, husband to the morne, 250
 And eke grim *Minos*, whom iust *Iupiter*
 Deigned to admit vnto his sacrifice.

The thundring trumpets of blood-thirstie *Mars*.
 The fearfull rage of fell *Tisiphone*,

The boistrous waues of humid Ocean, 255
 Are instruments and tooles of dismall death.
 Then, noble cousin, cease to mourne his
 chaunce,

Whose age & yeares were signes that he shuld
 die.

It resteth now that we interre his bones,
 That was a terror to his enemies. 260

Take vp the coarse, and, princes, hold him
 dead,

Who while he liu'd, vpheld the *Troyan* state.
 Sound drums and trumpets; march to *Troi-*
nouant,

There to prouide our chieftaines funerall.

(Exeunt.)

The first Act. Scene 2.

(The house of Strumbo.)

Enter Strumbo above in a gowne, with inke and
 paper in his hand, saying:—

Strum. Either the foure elements, the seuen
 planets, and all the particuler starres of the
 pole Antastick, are aduersatiue against me, or
 else I was begotten and borne in the wane
 of the Moone, when euerie thing as *Lactantius*
 in his fourth booke of Constultations dooth
 say, goeth asward. I, maisters, I, you may
 laugh, but I must weepe; you may ioy, but I

235 Preps Corin. precedes 236 in Q Iacus Q. Ff
 236 just Haz. 238 hugest S 240 Euridies Q
 244 Crebus Q. Ff S. D. Scene 2] Scene 3 Q Bracketed
 words add. T 3 Antarctic T 5 as] as saith Q

must sorrow; sheading salt teares from the watrie fountaines of my moste daintie faire eies, along my comely and smooth cheeks, in as great plentie as the water runneth from the buckingtubbes, or red wine out of the hogs heads: for trust me, gentlemen and my verie good friends, and so fourth, the little god, nay the desperate god *Cuprit*, with one of his vengible birdbolts, hath shot me vnto the heele: so not onlie, but also, oh fine phrase, I burne, I burne, and I burne a, in loue, in loue, and in loue a. Ah, *Strumbo*, what hast thou seen? not *Dina* with the *Asse Tom*? Yea, with these eies thou hast seene her, and therefore pull them out, for they will worke thy bale. Ah, *Strumbo*, hast thou heard? not the voice of the Nightingale, but a voice sweeter then hers. Yea, with these eares hast thou heard it, and therefore cut them off, for they haue caused thy sorrow. Nay, *Strumbo*, kill thy selfe, drowne thy selfe, hang thy selfe, sterue thy selfe. Oh, but then I shall leaue my sweet heart. Oh my heart! Now, pate, for thy maister! I will dite an aliquant loue-pistle to her, and then she hearing the grand verbositie of my scripture, will loue me presently. 34

[*Let him write a litle and then read.*]

My penne is naught; gentlemen, lend me a knife. I thinke the more haste the worst speed. 37

[*Then write againe, and after read.*]

So it is, mistresse *Dorothie*, and the sole essence of my soule, that the little sparkles of affection kindled in me towards your sweet selfe hath now increased to a great flame, and will ere it be long consume my poore heart, except you, with the pleasant water of your secret fountaine, quench the furious heate of the same. Alasse, I am a gentleman of good fame and name, maiesticall, in parrell comely, in gate portlie. Let not therefore your gentle heart be so hard as to despise a proper tall, yoong man of a handsome life, and by despising him, not onlie, but also to kill him. Thus expecting time and tide, I bid you farewell. Your seruant, Signior *Strumbo*. 52

Oh wit! Oh pate! O memorie! O hand! O incke! O paper! Well, now I will send it away. *Trompart, Trompart!* what a villaine is this? Why, sirra, come when your maister calls you: *Trompart!*

Trompart, entring, saith:

Anon, sir.

Strumbo. Thou knowest, my prettie boy,

what a good maister I haue bene to thee euer since I tooke thee into my seruice. 61

Trom. I, sir.

Strum. And how I haue cherished thee alwaies, as if you had bene the fruit of my loines, flesh of my flesh, and bone of my bone. 66

Trom. I, sir.

Strum. Then shew thy selfe herein a trustie seruant, and carrie this letter to mistresse *Dorothie*, and tell her— 70

[*Speaking in his eare. Exit Trompart.*]

Strum. Nay, maisters, you shall see a marriage by and by. But here she comes. Now must I frame my amorous passions.

Enter Dorothie and Trompart.

Doro. Signior *Strumbo*, well met. I receiued your letters by your man here, who told mee a pittifull storie of your anguish, and so vnderstanding your passions were so great, I came hither speedily. 78

Strum. Oh my sweet and pigsney, the fecunditie of my ingenie is not so great, that may declare vnto you the sorrowful sobs and broken sleeps, that I suffred for your sake; and therefore I desire you to receiue me into your familiaritie.

For your loue doth lie, 85
As neare and as nigh
Vnto my heart within,
As mine eye to my nose,
My legge vnto my hose,
And my flesh vnto my skin. 90

Dor. Truly, M(aister) *Strumbo*, you speake too learnedly for mee to vnderstand the drift of your mind, and therefore tell your tale in plaine termes, and leaue off your darke riddles. 95

Strum. Alasse, mistresse *Dorothie*, this is my lucke, that when I most would, I cannot be vnderstood; so that my great learning is an inconuenience vnto me. But to speake in plaine termes, I loue you, mistresse *Dorothie*, if you like to accept me into your familiaritie.

Dor. If this be all, I am content. 102

Strum. Saist thou so, sweet wench; let me lick thy toes. Farwell, mistresse.

[*Turning to the people.*]

If any of you be in loue, prouide ye a capcase full of new coined wordes, and then shall you soone haue the *succado de labres*, and something else. [*Exeunt.*]

16 *Cuprit om. Harz. Molt.* 24 hast] what hast M
25 it M: them Q. Ff 36 worse M

64 you had] thou hadst Ff 104 S. D. after
102 Q

*The first Act. Scene 3.**(An apartment in the palace.)*

Enter Loocrine, Guendoline, Camber, Albanact,
Corineus, Assaracus, Debon, Thrasimachus.

Loocrine. Vncle, and princes of braue
Britany,

Since that our noble father is intombd,
As best beseemd so braue a prince as he,
If so you please, this day my loue and I,
Within the temple of *Concordia*,
Will solemnize our roiall marriage.

Thra. Right noble Lord, your subiects
euery one,

Must needs obey your highnesse at com-
maund;

Especially in such a cause as this,
That much concerns your highnesse great
content.

Locr. Then frolick, lordings, to fair *Con-*
cords wals,

Where we will passe the day in knightly sports,
The night in dauncing and in figured maskes,
And offer to God *Risus* all our sports. [*Exeunt.*

The 2. Act. Prologue.

Enter Atey as before. After a litle lightning
and thundring, let there come forth this
show:—Perseus and Andromeda, hand in
hand, and Cepheus also, with swords and
targets. Then let there come out of an
other doore, Phineus, all blacke in armour,
with Aethiopians after him, driuing in
Perseus, and hauing taken away Andro-
meda, let them depart, Ate remaining,
saying:

Ate. Regit omnia numen.

When *Perseus* married faire *Andromeda*,
The onlie daughter of king *Cepheus*,
He thought he had establisht well his Crowne,
And that his kingdome should for aie endure.
But, loe, proud *Phineus* with a band of men, 6
Contriu'd of sun-burnt *Aethiopians*,
By force of armes the bride he tooke from him,
And turnd their ioy into a floud of teares.
So fares it with yoong *Loocrine* and his loue, 10
He thinks this marriage tendeth to his weale;
But this foule day, this foule accursed day,
Is the beginning of his miseries.
Behold where *Humber* and his *Scythians*
Approcheth nigh with all his warlike traine.
I need not, I, the sequel shall declare, 16
What tragicke chances fall out in this warre.

S. D. Scene 3] Scene 4 *Q* Bracketed words add. *T*
9 cause] case *M* 14 sports] tasks conj. *M* *S. D.*
Prologue] Scene 1 *Q* 7 Composed *S* 16 shall]
should *M*

The 1. Scene.

Enter Humber, Hubba, Estrild, Segar, and
their souldiers.

Hum. At length the snaile doth clime the
highest tops,

Ascending vp the stately castle walls;
At length the water with continuall drops,
Doth penetrate the hardest marble stone;
At length we are arriued in *Albion*. 5
Nor could the barbarous *Dacian* soueraigne,
Nor yet the ruler of braue *Belgia*,
Staie vs from cutting ouer to this Ile,
Whereas I heare a troope of *Phrigians*
Vnder the conduct of *Postumius* sonne, 10
Haue pitched vp lordly pauillions,
And hope to prosper in this louely Ile.
But I will frustrate all their foolish hope,
And teach them that the *Scithian* Emperour
Leades fortune tied in a chaine of gold, 15
Constraining her to yeeld vnto his will,
And grace him with their regall diademe,
Which I will haue maugre their treble hoasts,
And all the power their pettie kings can make.

Hubba. If she that rules faire *Rhamnisi*
golden gate 20

Graunt vs the honour of the victorie,
As hitherto she alwaies fauoured vs,
Right noble father, we will rule the land,
Enthronized in seates of *Topace* stones, 24
That *Loocrine* and his brethren all may know,
None must be king but *Humber* and his sonne.

Hum. Courage, my sonne, fortune shall
faour vs,

And yeeld to vs the coronet of bay,
That decketh none but noble conquerours.
But what saith *Estrild* to these regions? 30
How liketh she the temperature thereof?
Are they not pleasant in her gracious eies?

Estr. The plaines, my Lord, garnisht with
Floras welth,

And ouerspred with party colored flowers,
Do yeeld sweet contentation to my mind. 35
The aerie hills enclosed with shadie groues,
The groues replenisht with sweet chirping
birds,

The birds resounding heavenly melodie,
Are equal to the groues of *Thessaly*, 39
Where *Phæbus* with the learned Ladies nine,
Delight themselves with musicke harmonie,
And from the moisture of the mountaine tops,
The silent springs daunce downe with mur-
muring streams, 43

And water al the ground with cristal waucs.
The gentle blasts of *Eurus*, modest winde,

The 2. Scene *Q* 13 hopes *S* 33 Prefix *Astr.*
Q 41 musick's *M*

Mouing the pittering leaues of *Siluanes* woods,
Do equall it with *Tempes* paradise; 47
And thus consorted all to one effect,
Do make me thinke these are the happie Iles,
Most fortunate, if *Humber* may them winne.

Hubba. Madam, where resolution leads the way, 51

And courage followes with imboldened pace,
Fortune can neuer vse her tyrannie;
For valiantnesse is like vnto a rocke
That standeth in the waues of Ocean, 55
Which though the billowes beat on euery side,
And *Boreas* fell with his tempestuous stormes
Bloweth vpon it with a hideous clamour,
Yet it remaineth still vnmoueable.

Hum. Kingly resolu'd, thou glorie of thy sire. 60

But, worthe *Segar*, what vncoth nouelties
Bringst thou vnto our royall maiestie?

Seg. My Lord, the yongest of all *Brutus* sonnes,

Stout *Albanact*, with millions of men,
Approcheth nigh, and meaneth, ere the morne, 65

To trie your force by dint of fatall sword.

Hum. Tut, let him come with millions of hostes;

He shall find entertainment good inough,
Yea, fit for those that are our enemies:
For weell receiue them at the launces points,
And massaker their bodies with our blades: 71

Yea, though they were in number infinit,
More then the mightie Babilonian queene,
Semiramis the ruler of the West,
Brought gainst the Emperour of the Scythians; 75

Yet would we not start back one foote from them:

That they might know we are inuincible.

Hub. Now, by great *Ioue*, the supreme king of heauen,

And the immortall gods that liue therein,
When as the morning shewes his chearfull face, 80

And *Lucifer*, mounted vpon his steed,
Brings in the chariot of the golden sunne,
He meet yong *Albanact* in the open field,
And crack my launce vpon his burget, 85

To trie the valour of his boyish strength.
There will I shew such ruthfull spectacles
And cause so great effusion of blood,
That all his boyes shall wonder at my strength:

As when the warlike queene of *Amazon*,
Penthisilea, armed with her launce, 90
Girt with a corslet of bright shining steele,

Coupt vp the fainthart *Græcians* in the campe.

Hum. Spoke like a warlike knight, my noble son;

Nay, like a prince that seekes his fathers ioy.
Therefore, to morrow, ere faire *Titan* shine,
And bashfull *Eos*, messenger of light, 96

Expells the liquid sleep from out mens eyes,
Thou shalt conduct the right wing of the hoste;
The left wing shall be vnder *Segars* charge,
The reareward shall be vnder me my selfe. 100

And louely *Estrild*, faire and gratiuous,
If fortune fauour me in mine attempts,
Thou shalt be queene of louely *Albion*.

Fortune shall fauour me in mine attempts,
And make the Queene of louely *Albion*. 105

Come, let vs in and muster vp our traine,
And furnish vp our lustie souldiers,

That they may be a bullwarke to our state,
And bring our wished ioyes to perfect end.

The 2. Scene.

Enter *Strumbo*, *Dorothie*, *Trompart*, *cobling shoes* and singing. (*To them enter Captain.*)

Trum. We Coblers lead a merie life:

All. Dan, dan, dan, dan:

Strum. Void of all enuie and of strife:

All. Dan diddle dan.

Dor. Our ease is great, our labour small: 5

All. Dan, dan, dan, dan.

Strum. And yet our gaines be much withall:

All. Dan diddle dan.

Dor. With this art so fine and faire:

All. Dan, dan, dan, dan. 10

Trum. No occupation may compare:

All. Dan diddle dan.

Dor. For merie pastime and ioyfull glee:

Dan, dan, dan, dan.

Strum. Mosthappie men we Coblers bee: 15
Dan diddle dan.

Trum. The can stands full of nappie ale:

Dan, dan, dan, dan:

Strum. In our shop still withouten faile:

Dan diddle dan. 20

Dor. This is our meate, this is our fodde:

Dan, dan, dan, dan:

Trum. This brings vs to a mery mood:

Dan diddle dan.

Strum. This makes vs worke for companie:

Dan, dan, dan, dan: 26

Dor. To pull the tankards cheerfully:

Dan diddle dan.

Trum. Drinke to thy husband, *Dorothie*,

Dan, dan, dan, dan: 30

46 pattering T 48 consorted R: comforted Q.
Ff 57 Borrass Q 83 the out. T 89 Amazons M

3 ennie Q 13 Prefix Strum. before 13, Dor. before
15 Q, Ff: corr. M

Dor. Why, then, my *Strumbo*, ther's to thee:
Dan didle dan:

Strum. Drinke thou the rest, *Trumpart*,
amaïne:

Dan, dan, dan, dan.

Dor. When that is gone, weell fitt againe:
Dan didle dan. 36

Cap. The poorest state is farthest from
annoy.

How merily he sitteth on his stoole!

But when he sees that needs he must be prest,
Heele turne his note and sing another tune. 40
Ho, by your leauē, maister Cobler.

Stru. You are welcom, gentleman. What
wil you? any olde shooes or buskins? or wil
you haue your shooes clouted? I will do them
as well as any Cobler in *Cathnes* whatsoever.

Captaine, shewing him *presse mony*. O
maister Cobler, you are farre deceiued in mee,
for don you see this? I come not to buy any
shooes, but to buy your selfe; come, sir, you
must be a souldier in the kings cause. 50

Strum. Why, but heare you, sir; has your
king any commission to take any man against
his will. I promise you, I can scant beleue it;
or did hee giue you commission? 54

Cap. O sir, ye neede not care for that; I
neede no commission. Hold, here: I com-
mand you, in the name of our king *Albanact*,
to appeare to morrow in the towne-house of
Cathnes. 59

Strum. King Nactaball! I crie God
mercy! what haue we to doo with him, or he
with vs? But you, sir master capontaille, draw
your pastebourd, or else I promise you, Ile
giue you a canuasado with a bastinado ouer
your shoulders, and teach you to come hither
with your implements. 66

Cap. I pray thee, good fellow, be content;
I do the kings commaund.

Strum. Put me out of your booke, then.

Cap. I may not.

Strumbo, *snatching vp a staffe*. No! Well,
come, sir, will your stomacke serue you?
by gogs blew hood and halidom, I will haue
a bout with you. 74

Fight both.

Enter Thrasimachus.

How now, what noyse, what sodain clamors
this?

How now, my captain and the cobbler so hard
at it?

Sirs, what is your quarrell? 77

31 here's *Molt*. 48 don't *M* 60 Nactabell *Q*
Ff 62 capoutaille *Q* 64 bastinano *Q* 71 Well
will *Q* 74 about *Q*, *F1* 76 Two lines, dir. after now *M*

Cap. Nothing, sir, but that he will not take
presse mony.

Thra. Here, good fellow; take it at my
command,

Vnlesse you meane to be stretcht. 81

Strum. Truly, master gentleman, I lacke
no mony; if you please, I will resigne it to
one of these poore fellowes.

Thras. No such matter, 85

Looke you be at the common house to morrow.

[*Exit Thrasimachus and the captaine.*]

Strum. O, wife, I haue spunne a faire
thredde! If I had bene quiet, I had not bene
prest, and therefore well may I wayment. But
come, sirrha, shut vp, for we must to the
warres. [*Exeunt.*]

The 3. Scene.

(*The camp of Albanact.*)

Enter Albanact, Debon, Thrasimachus,
and the Lords.

Alba. Braue cauileres, princes of *Albany*,
Whose trenchant blades with our deceased sire,
Passing the frontiers of braue *Græcia*,
Were bathed in our enemies lukewarme blood,
Now is the time to manifest your wills, 5
Your hautie mindes and resolutions.

Now opportunitie is offred
To trie your courage and your earnest zeale,
Which you alwaies protest to *Albanact*;
For at this time, yea, at this present time, 10
Stout fugitiues, come from the Scithians
bounds,

Haue pestred euerie place with mutinies.
But trust me, Lordings, I will neuer cease
To persecute the rascall runnagates,
Till all the riuers, stained with their blood, 15
Shall fully shew their fatall ouerthrow.

Deb. So shal your highnes merit great
renowne,
And imitate your aged fathers steppes.

Alba. But tell me, cousin, camst thou
through the plaines?

And sawst thou there the faint heart fugitiues
Mustering their weather-beaten souldiers? 21
What order keep they in their marshalling?

Thra. After we past the groues of *Caledone*,
Where murmuring riuers slide with silent
streames,

We did behold the stragling Scithians campe,
Repleat with men, storde with munition; 26
There might we see the valiant minded knights
Fetching carreers along the spatious plaines.

S. D. The 4. Scene Q Bracketed words add. *T* 28
carriers *Q*, *Ff*: corr. in ed. of 1728 and independently
by *M*

Humber and *Hubba* arm'd in azure blew,
Mounted vpon their coursers white as snow, 30
Went to behold the pleasant flowring fields;
Hector and *Troialus*, *Priamus* louely sonnes,
Chasing the Græcians ouer *Simoeis*,
Were not to be compared to these two knights.

Alba. Well hast thou painted out in elo-
quence 35

The portraiture of *Humber* and his sonne,
As fortunate as was *Policrates*;
Yet should they not escape our conquering
swords,

Or boast of ought but of our clemencie.

Enter Strumbo and *Trompart*, crying often:
Wilde fire and pitch, wilde fire and pitch, &c.

Thra. What, sirs! what mean you by these
clamors made, 40

Those outcries raised in our stately court?

Strum. Wilde fire and pitch, wilde fire and
pitch.

Thra. Villaines, I say, tell vs the cause
hereof?

Strum. Wilde fire and pitch, &c.

Thra. Tell me, you villaines, why you make
this noise, 45

Or with my launce I will prick your bowels out.
Al. Where are your houses, wher's your
dwelling place?

Strum. Place? Ha, ha, ha! laugh a
moneth and a day at him. Place! I cry God
mercy: why, doo you think that such poore
honest men as we be, hold our habitacles in
kings pallaces? Ha, ha, ha! But because you
seeme to be an abhominable chieftaine, I wil
tel you our state. 54

From the top to the toe,
From the head to the shoe;
From the beginning to the ending,
From the building to the burning. 58

This honest fellow and I had our mansion
cottage in the suburbs of this citie, hard by
the temple of *Mercury*. And by the common
souldiers of the *Shitens*, the *Scithians*—what
do you call them?—with all the suburbs were
burnt to the ground, and the ashes are left
there, for the countrie wiues to wash buckes
withall. 66

And that which greeues me most,
My louing wife,
(O cruell strifel)

The wicked flames did roast. 70
And therefore, captaine crust,

37 *M* thinks a line has been lost before this and sug-
gests: But were they brave as *Phthia's* arm-strong
chief 38 shall *T* 58 brenning conj. *Th*:
brending *T* 67-70 *Prose* in *Q*, *Ff*: corr. *M*

We will continuallie crie,
Except you seeke a remedie
Our houses to reedifie
Which now are burnt to dust. 75

Both cry: Wild fire and pitch, wild fire and
pitch.

Alba. Well, we must remedie these out-
rages,

And throw reuenge vpon their hatefull heads.
And you, good fellowes, for your houses burnt,
We will remunerate you store of gold, 80
And build your houses by our pallace gate.

Strumbo. Gate! O pettie treason to my
person! nowhere else but by your backside?
Gate! Oh how I am vexed in my collar! Gate!
I crie God mercie! Doo you hear, master
king? If you mean to gratifie such poore men
as we bee, you must build our houses by the
Tauerne. 88

Alba. It shall be done, sir.

Strum. Neare the *Tauerne*, I! by ladie, sir,
it was spoken like a good fellow. Do you
heare, sir? when our house is builded, if you
do chance to passe or repasse that way, we will
bestowe a quart of the best wine vpon you. [Exit.

Alb. It greeues me, lordings, that my sub-
jects' goods 95

Should thus be spoiled by the *Scithians*,
Who, as you see, with lightfoote forragers
Depopulate the places where they come.
But cursed *Humber* thou shalt rue the day
That ere thou camst vnto *Cathnesia*. 100
[Exeunt.

The 2. Act. Scene 4.

(The camp of *Humber*.)

Enter Humber, *Hubba*, *Segar*, *Trussier*, and
their souldiers.

Hum. *Hubba*, go take a coronet of our
horse,

As many launciers, and light armed knights
As may suffice for such an enterprise,
And place them in the groue of *Caledon*.
With these, when as the skirmish doth encrease,
Retire thou from the sheltiers of the wood, 6
And set vpon the weakened *Troians* backs,
For pollicie ioyned with chialrie
Can neuer be put back from victorie.

[Exit.

Albanact enter and say (clownes with him).

(*Alb*.) Thou base borne *Hunne*, how durst
thou be so bold 10

74 redife *Q* 90 by our lady *M* *S. D.* Scene 5
Q Bracketed words add. *T* 6 shelters *Ff* *S. D.*
Enter Albanact, *Clownes* with him *Ff*

As once to menace warlike *Albanact*,
The great commander of these regions?
But thou shalt buy thy rashnesse with thy
death,

And rue too late thy ouer bold attempts;
For with this sword, this instrument of death,
That hath bene drenched in my foe-mens
blood,

Ile separate thy bodie from thy head,
And set that coward blood of thine abroach.

Strum. Nay, with this staffe, great *Strum-*
bos instrument,

Ile crack thy cockscome, paltry Scithian.

Hum. Nor wreake I of thy threats, thou
princex boy,

Nor do I feare thy foolish insolencie;
And but thou better vse thy bragging blade,
Then thou doest rule thy ouerflowing toong,
Superbious Brittain, thou shalt know too
soone

The force of *Humber* and his Scithians.

Let them fight.

Humber and his souldiers runne in.

Strum. O horrible, terrible.

(Exit.)

The 5. Scene.

(Another part of the field of battle.)

Sound the alarme.

Enter Humber and his souldiers.

Hum. How brauely this yong Brittain,
Albanact,

Darteth abroad the thunderbolts of warre,
Beating downe millions with his furious
moode,

And in his glorie triumphs ouer all,

Mouing the massie squadrants of the ground;
Heape(s) hills on hills, to scale the starrie skie,
As when *Briareus*, armed with an hundreth
hands,

Floong forth an hundreth mountains at great
Ioue,

And when the monstrous giant *Monichus*
Hurd mount *Olimpus* at great *Mars* his targe,
And shot huge cædars at *Mineruas* shield.

How doth he ouerlook with hautie front
My fleeting hostes, and lifts his loftie face
Against vs all that now do feare his force,
Like as we see the wrathfull sea from farre,
In a great mountaine heapt, with hideous
noise,

With thousand billowes beat against the ships,
And tosse them in the waues like tennis balls.

Sound the alarme.

Humb. Ay me, I feare my *Hubba* is sur-
prise.

Sound againe; Enter Albanact.

Alba. Follow me, souldiers, follow *Alba-*
nact;

Pursue the Scithians flying through the field:
Let none of them escape with victorie;
That they may know the Brittaines force is
more

Then al the power of the trembling *Hunnes*.

Thra. Forward, braue souldiers, forward!
keep the chase.

He that takes captiue *Humber* or his sonne
Shall be rewarded with a crowne of gold.

Sound alarme, then let them fight, Humber
giue backe, Hubba enter at their backs, and kill
Debon, let Strumbo fall downe, Albanact run
in, and afterwards enter wounded.

Alba. Iniurious fortune, hast thou crost me
thus?

Thus, in the morning of my victories,
Thus, in the prime of my felicitie,

To cut me off by such hard ouerthrow!

Hadst thou no time thy rancor to declare,
But in the spring of all my dignities?

Hadst thou no place to spit thy venome out,
But on the person of yong *Albanact*?

I, that ere while did scare mine enemies,
And droue them almost to a shamefull flight,

I, that ere while full lion-like did fare
Amongst the dangers of the thick throngd

pikes,

Must now depart most lamentably slaine

By *Humbers* trecheries and fortunes spights.

Curst be her charms, damned be her cursed
charms

That doth delude the waiward harts of men,
Of men that trust vnto her fickle wheele,

Which neuer leaueth turning vpside downe.

O gods, O heauens, allot me but the place
Where I may finde her hatefull mansion!

Ile passe the Alpes to watry *Meroe*,

Where fierie *Phæbus* in his charriot,

The wheels wherof are dect with Emeraldes,
Casts such a heate, yea such a scorching heate,

And spoileth *Flora* of her checquered grasse;
Ile ouerrun the mountaine *Caucus*,

Where fell *Chimæra* in her triple shape
Rolleth hot flames from out her monstrous

panch,

Scaring the beasts with issue of her gorge;
Ile passe the frozen Zone where ysie flakes,

21 reek *M* *S. D.* Exit add. *M* *S. D.* The sixt Act
Q: *Scena Sexta Ff* *Bruckted words add.* *T* 5 squad-
rons off *M* 6 Heaps *M* 7 As on. *Q* 9 And] As *M*

42 her charms *R*: their charms *Q*, *Ff* 49
Phœbus Q 51 Casts *R*: Cast *Q*, *Ff* 52 And] As
S 53 overturn *Ff*, etc.

Stopping the passage of the fleeting shippes,
Do lie like mountaines in the congeald sea:
Where if I finde that hatefull house of hers, 60
He pull the fickle wheele from out her hands,
And tie her selfe in euerlasting bands.
But all in vaine I breath these threatnings;
The day is lost, the *Hunnes* are conquerors,
Debon is slaine, my men are done to death, 65
The currents swift swimme violently with
blood,

And last, O that this last might so long last,
My selfe with woundes past all recouery
Must leaue my crowne for *Humber* to possesse.

Strum. Lord haue mercy vpon vs, masters,
I think this is a holie day; euerie man lies
sleeping in the fields, but, God knowes, full
sore against their wills. 73

Thra. Flie, noble *Albanact*, and saue thy
selfe.

The *Scithians* follow with great celeritie,
And ther's no way but flight, or speedie death;
Flie, noble *Albanact*, and saue thy selfe.

(*Exit Thra.*)

Sound the alarme.

Alba. Nay, let them flie that feare to die
the death,

That tremble at the name of fatall mors.

Neu'r shall proud *Humber* boast or brag him-
selfe 80

That he hath put yong *Albanact* to flight;
And least he should triumph at my decay,
This sword shall reauce his maister of his life,
That oft hath sau'd his maisters doubtfull life:
But, oh, my brethren, if you care for me, 85
Reuenge my death vpon his traiterous head.

*Et vos quis domus est nigrantis regia ditis,
Qui regitis rigido stigios moderamine lucos:
Nox cæci regina poli, furialis Erinis, 89
Diique deæque omnes, Albanum tollite regem,
Tollite flumineis vndis rigidaque palude.
Nunc me fata vocant, hoc condam pectore
ferrum.*

(*Thrust himselfe through.*)

Enter Trompart.

(*Tr.*) O, what hath he don? his nose bleeds.
But, oh, I smel a foxe:

Looke where my maister lies. Master, master.

Strum. Let me alone, I tell thee, for I am
dead. 95

Trum. Yet one word, good master.

Strum. I will not speake, for I am dead, I
tel thee.

Trum. And is my master dead?

O sticks and stones, brickbats and bones,
and is my master dead? 100

O you cockatrices and you bablatrices,
that in the woods dwell:

You briers and brambles, you cookes shoppes
and shambles,

come howle and yell.

With howling & screeking, with wailing and
weeping, 105

come you to lament,

O *Colliers* of *Croyden*, and rusticks of *Royden*,
and fishers of *Kent*;

For *Strumbo* the cobler, the fine mery cobler
of *Cathnes* towne: 110

At this same stoure, at this very houre,
lies dead on the ground.

O maister, theeues, theeues, theeues.

Strum. Where be they? cox me tunny,
bobekin! let me be rising. Be gone; we shall
be robde by and by. [*Exeunt.*]

The 6. Scene.

(*The camp of the Huns.*)

*Enter Humber, Hubba, Segar, Thrassier,
Estrild, and the souldiers.*

Hum. Thus from the dreadful shocks of
furious *Mars*,

Thundring alarmes, and *Rhamnusias* drum,
We are rettyred with ioyfull victorie.

The slaughtered *Troians*, squeltring in their
blood,

Infect the aire with their carcasses, 5
And are a praie for euerie rauenous bird.

Estrild. So perish they that are our enemies!
So perish they that loue not *Humbers* weale,
And mightie *Ioue*, commander of the world,
Protect my loue from all false trecheries. 10

Hum. Thanks, louely *Estrild*, solace to my
soule.

But, valiant *Hubba*, for thy chualrie,
Declare against the men of *Albany*,
Loe, here a flowing garland wreath'd of bay,
As a reward for thy forward minde. 15

Set it on his head.

Hub. This vnexpected honor, noble sire,
Will wrick my courage vnto brauer deeds,
And cause me to attempt such hard exploits,
That all the world shall sound of *Hubbaes*
name.

Hum. And now, braue souldiers, for this
good successe, 20
Carouse whole cups of *Amazonian* wine,

S. D. The 8. Act Q: *Scena Octava Ff* Bracketed
words add. T

67 might conj. M: night Q, Ff 76 flight R:
fight Q, Ff S. D. *Exit Thra.* add. M 96 word
M: good Q, Ff

Sweeter then Nectar or Ambrosia,
 And cast away the clods of cursed care,
 With goblets crownd with *Semeleius* gifts.
 Now let vs march to *Abis* siluer streames, 25
 That clearly glide along the *Champane* fields,
 And moist the grassie meades with humid drops.
 Sound drummes & trumpets, sound vp cheer-
 fully,
 Sith we returne with ioy and victorie.

(*Exeunt.*)

The 3. Act. Prologue.

Enter Ate as before. The dumb show.
A Crocodile sitting on a riuers banke, and
a little Snake stinging it. Then let both
of them fall into the water.

Ate. Scelera in aethorem cadunt.
 High on a banke by *Nilus* boystrous streames,
 Fearfully sat the Aegyptian Crocodile,
 Dreadfully grinding in her sharpe long teethe
 The broken bowels of a silly fish. 5
 His back was arme against the dint of speare,
 With shields of brasse that shind like burnisht
 gold;
 And as he stretched forth his cruell pawes,
 A subtile Adder, creeping closely neare,
 Thrusting his forked sting into his clawes, 10
 Priuily shead his poison through his bones;
 Which made him swel, that there his bowels
 burst,
 That did so much in his owne greatnesse trust.
 So *Humber*, hauing conquered *Albanact*,
 Doth yeld his glorie vnto *Locrines* sword. 15
 Marke what ensues and you may easily see,
 That all our life is but a Tragedie.

The 1. Scene.

(*Troynouant.* *An apartment in the Royal*
Palace.)

Enter Locrine, Guendoline, Corineus, Assara-
cus, Thrasimachus, Camber.

Locrine. And is this true? Is *Albanactus*
 slaine?
 Hath cursed *Humber*, with his stragling hoste,
 With that his armie made of mungrell curses,
 Brought our redoubted brother to his end?
 O that I had the Thracian *Orpheus* harpe, 5
 For to awake out of the infernall shade
 Those ougly diuels of black *Erebus*,
 That might torment the damned traitorssoule!
 O that I had *Amphions* instrument,
 To quicken with his vitall notes and tunes 10
 The flintie ioynts of euerie stonie rocke,

23 clouds S *S. D. Exeunt add. R S. D.*
Prologue Scene 1 Q S. D. The 2. Scene Q Brack-
eted words add. T

By which the Scithians might be punished!
 For, by the lightening of almighty *Ioue*,
 The *Hunne* shall die, had he ten thousand liues;
 And would to God he had ten thousand liues, 15
 That I might with the arme-strong *Hercules*
 Crop off so vile an *Hidras* hissing heads!
 But say me, cousin, for I long to heare,
 How *Albanact* came by vntimely death.

Thrasi. After the traitrous hoast of
 Scithians 20

Entred the field with martiall equipage,
 Yoong *Albanact*, impatient of delaie,
 Ledde forth his armie against the stragling
 mates,
 Whose multitude did daunt our souldiers
 mindes.

Yet nothing could dismay the forward prince,
 But with a courage most heroically, 26
 Like to a lion mongst a flock of lambes,
 Made hauocke of the faintheart fugitiues,
 Hewing a passage through them with his
 sword.

Yea, we had almost giuen them the repulse,
 When suddenly, from out the silent wood, 31
Hubba, with twentie thousand souldiers,
 Cowardly came vpon our weakened backes,
 And murdered all with fatall massacre.
 Amongst the which old *Debon*, martiall knight,
 With many wounds was brought vnto the
 death, 36

And *Albanact*, opprest with multitude,
 Whilst valiantly he feld his enemies,
 Yelled his life and honour to the dust.
 He being dead, the souldiers fled amaine, 40
 And I alone escaped them by flight,
 To bring you tidings of these accidents.

Locr. Not aged *Priam*, King of stately *Troy*,
 Graund Emperour of barbarous *Asia*,
 When he beheld his noble minded sonnes 45
 Slaine traiterously by all the *Mermidons*,
 Lamented more then I for *Albanact*.

Guen. Not *Hecuba*, the queene of *Ilium*,
 When she beheld the towne of *Pergamus*, 49
 Her pallace, burnt with all deuouring flames,
 Her fittie sonnes and daughters fresh of hue
 Murthred by wicked *Pirrhus* bloodie sword,
 Shed such sad teares as I for *Albanact*.

Cam. The grieffe of *Niobe*, faire *Athens*
 queene, 54
 For her seuen sonnes, magnanimious in field,
 For her seuen daughters, fairer then the fairest,
 Is not to be comparde with my laments.

Cor. In vaine you sorrow for the slaughtred
 prince,
 In vaine you sorrow for his ouerthrow;

18 my cousin M 26 But] He M: Who S 54
 Athens] Amphion's conj. M

He loues not most that doth lament the most,
But he that seekes to venge the iniurie. 61
Thinke you to quell the enemies warlike
traine

With childish sobs and womannish laments?
Vnsheath your swords, vnsheath your con-
quering swords,
And seek reuenge, the comfort for this sore. 65
In *Cornwall*, where I hold my regiment,
Euen iust tenne thousand valiant men at
armes

Hath *Corineus* readie at commaund:
All these and more, if need shall more re-
quire,

Hath *Corrineus* readie at commaund. 70
Cam. And in the fields of martiall *Cambria*,
Close by the boystrous *Iscans* siluer streames,
Where lightfoote faires skip from banke to
banke,

Full twentie thousand braue couragious
knights,

Well exercise in feates of chiuallrie, 75
In manly maner most inuincible,
Yoong *Camber* hath with gold and victuall:
All these and more, if need shall more require,
I offer vp to venge my brothers death.

Loc. Thanks, louing vncke, and good bro-
ther, too; 80

For this reuenge, for this sweete word, reuenge
Must ease and cease my wrongfull iniuries.
And by the sword of bloodie *Mars*, I sweare,
Nere shall sweete quiet enter this my front,
Till I be venged on his traiterous head. 85

That slew my noble brother *Albanact*.
Sound drummes and trumpets; muster vp the
camp,

For we will straight march to *Albania*.
[*Exeunt.*

The 2. Scene.

(*The banks of the river, afterward the Humber.*)

Enter *Humber*, *Estrild*, *Hubba*, *Trussier*, and
the souldiers.

Hum. Thus are we come, victorious con-
querors,

Vnto the flowing currents siluer streames,
Which, in memorial of our victorie,
Shall be agnominated by our name,
And talked of by our posteritie: 5
For sure I hope before the golden sunne
Posteth his horses to faire *Thetis* plaines,
To see the water turned into blood,
And chaunge his blewish hue to ruffall red,

By reason of the fatall massacre 10
Which shall be made vpon the virent plaines.

Enter the ghaost of Albanact.

(*Ghost.*) See how the traitor doth presage
his harme,

See how he glories at his owne decay,
See how he triumphs at his proper losse;
O fortune vilde, vnstable, fickle, fraile! 15

Hum. Me thinkes I see both armies in the
field:

The broken launces clime the cristall skies;
Some headlesse lie, some breathlesse on the
ground,

And euery place is straw'd with carcasses.
Behold! the grasse hath lost his pleasant
greene, 20

The sweetest sight that euer might be seene.

Ghost. I, traiterous *Humber*, thou shalt find
it so.

Yea, to thy cost thou shalt the same behold,
With anguish, sorrow, and with sad laments.
The grassie plaines, that now do please thine
eies, 25

Shall ere the night be coloured all with blood:
The shadie groues which now inclose thy
campe

And yeeld sweet sauours to thy damned corps,
Shall ere the night be figured all with blood:
The profound streame, that passeth by thy
tents, 30

And with his moisture serueth all thy campe,
Shall ere the night conuerted be to blood,—
Yea, with the blood of those thy stragling boyes;
For now reuenge shall ease my lingring griefe,
And now reuenge shall glut my longing soule.

Hub. Let come what wil, I meane to beare
it out, 36

And either liue with glorious victorie,
Or die with fame renowned for chiuallrie.
He is not worthe of the honie combe,
That shuns the hiues because the bees haue
stings: 40

That likes me best that is not got with ease,
Which thousand daungers do accompany;
For nothing can dismay our regall minde,
Which aimes at nothing but a golden crowne,
The only vpsshot of mine enterprises. 45
Were they enchanted in grimme *Plutos* court,
And kept for treasure mongst his hellish crue,
I would either quell the triple *Cerberus*
And all the armie of his hatefull hags,
Or roll the stone with wretched *Sisiphos*. 50

64 conquering sword *Q*, *Ff*: *corr.* *R* 72 *Iscas*
Haz. 82 *my* thy *Q* *S. D.* The 3. Scene *Q*
Bracketed words add. *T* 8 water *M*: waters *Q*, *Ff*
9 chaunge] ? chaunged *pr.* *cd.*

S. D. *Almanact Q* 12 *Prefix add.* *R* 19 *Anb Q*
20 *his* its *T* 38 *renown'd Ff*, etc. 46 *M* suggests
that a line has been lost after 45 'enchanted] enchained
conj. M 50 *Sisiphon Q*

Hum. Right martiall be thy thoughts my noble sonne,
And all thy words sauour of chialrie.—

(*Enter Segar.*)

But warlike *Segar*, what strange accidents
Makes you to leaue the warding of the campe.

Segar. To armes, my Lord, to honourable armes!

Take helme and targe in hand; the Brittaines come,

With greater multitude then erst the Greekes
Brought to the ports of Phrigian *Tenidos*.

Hum. But what saith *Segar* to these accidents?

What counsell giues he in extremities?

Seg. Why this, my Lord, experience teacheth vs:

That resolution is a sole helpe at need.

And this, my Lord, our honour teacheth vs:

That we be hold in euerie enterprise.

Then since there is no way but fight or die,

Be resolute, my Lord, for victorie.

Hum. And resolute, *Segar*, I meane to be.

Perhaps some blisfull starre will fauour vs,

And comfort bring to our perplexed state.

Come, let vs in and fortifie our campe,

So to withstand their strong inuasion.

[*Exeunt.*]

The 3. Scene.

(*Before the hut of a peasant.*)

Enter Strumbo, Trumpart, Oliuer, and his sonne William following them.

Strum. Nay, neighbour *Oliuer*, if you be so whot, come, prepare yourselfe. You shall finde two as stout fellows of vs, as any in all the North.

Oliu. No, by my dorth, neighbor *Strumbo*. Ich zee dat you are a man of small zideration, dat wil zeek to iniure your olde vrendes, one of your familiar guests; and derefore, zeeing your pinion is to deale withouten reazon, iche and my zonne *William* will take dat course, dat shall be fardest vrom reazon. How zay you, will you haue my daughter or no?

Strum. A verie hard question, neighbour, but I will solue it as I may. What reazon haue you to demaund it of me?

Wil. Marry, sir, what reazon had you, when my sister was in the barne, to tumble her vpon the haie, and to fish her belly.

Strum. Mas, thou saist true. Well, but would you haue me marry her therefore? No,

S. D. add. R. 62 a om. *S.* *S. D.* The 4. Scene *Q*
Bracketed words add. T

I scorne her, and you, and you. I, I scorne you all.

Oliu. You will not haue her then?

Strum. No, as I am a true gentleman.

Wil. Then wil we schoole you, ere you and we part hence.

(*They fight.*)

Enter Margerie and snatch the staffe out of her brothers hand, as he is fighting.

Strum. I, you come in pudding time, or else I had drest them.

Mar. You, master sausebox, lobcock, cockscomb, you slopsauce, lickfingers, will you not heare?

Strum. Who speake you too? me?

Mar. I, sir, to you, *Iohn* lackhonestie, little wit. Is it you that will haue none of me?

Strum. No, by my troth, mistresse nicebice. How fine you can nickname me. I think you were broght vp in the vniuersitie of bridewell; you haue your rhetorick so ready at your toongs end, as if you were neuer well warned when you were yong.

Mar. Why then, goodman cods-head, if you wil haue none of me, farewell.

Strum. If you be so plaine, mistresse drigle dragle, fare you well.

Mar. Nay, master *Strumbo*, ere you go from hence, we must haue more words. You will haue none of me?

They both fight.

Strum. Oh my head, my head! leaue, leaue, leaue! I will, I will, I will!

Mar. Vpon that condition I let thee alone.

Oliu. How now, master *Strumbo*? hath my daughter taught you a new lesson?

Strum. I, but heare you, goodman *Oliuer*: it will not bee for my ease to haue my head broken euerie day; therefore remedie this and we shall agree.

Oli. Well, zonne, well—for you are my zonne now—all shall be remedied. Daughter, be friends with him.

(*Shake hands.*)

(*Exeunt Oliver, William, and Margery.*)

Strum. You are a sweet nut! The diuel crack you. Maisters, I thinke it be my lucke: my first wife was a louing quiet wench, but this, I thinke, would weary the diuel! I would she might be burnt as my other wife was. If not, I must runne to the halter for help. O codpeece, thou hast done thy maister! this it is to be meddling with warme plackets.

[*Exeunt.*]

26 *S. D. add. M* 59 *S. D. Bracketed words add. M*
66 done *Q, M*: undone *Ff, R, etc.*

The 4. Scene.

(The camp of Locrine.)

Enter Locrine, Camber, Corineus, Thrasimachus, Assarachus.

Loc. Now am I garded with an hoste of men,
Whose hautie courage is inuincible:

Now am I hembde with troupes of souldiers,
Such as might force *Bellona* to retire,
And make her tremble at their puissance: 5
Now sit I like the mightie god of warre,
When, armed with his coat of Adament,
Mounted his charriot drawne with mighty
bulls,

He droue the Argiues ouer *Xanthus* streames:
Now, cursed *Humber*, doth thy end draw nie.
Downe goes the glorie of thy victories, 11
And all thy fame, and all thy high renouwe
Shall in a-moment yeeld to *Locrines* sword.
Thy bragging banners crost with argent
streames,

The ornaments of thy pauillions, 15
Shall all be captiuated with this hand,
And thou thy selfe, at *Albanactus* tombe,
Shalt offred be in satisfaction
Of all the wrongs thou didst him when he
liu'd.—

But canst thou tell me, braue *Thrasimachus*, 20
How farre we are distant from *Humbers* campe?

Thra. My Lord, within yon foule accursed
groue,

That beares the tokens of our ouerthrow,
This *Humber* hath intrencht his damned campe.
March on, my Lord, because I long to see 25
The trecherous Scithians squeltring in their
gore.

Locri. Sweet fortune, fauour *Locrine* with
a smile,

That I may venge my noble brothers death;
And in the midst of stately *Troinouant*,
Ile build a temple to thy deitie 30
Of perfect marble and of *Iacinthe* stones,
That it shall passe the high *Pyramides*,
Which with their top surmount the firmament.

Cam. The armestrong offspring of the
doubled night,

Stout *Hercules*, *Alcmenas* mightie sonne, 35
That tamde the monsters of the threefold
world,

And rid the oppressed from the tyrants yokes,
Did neuer shew such valiantnesse in fight,
As I will now for noble *Albanact*.

S. D. The 5. Scene Q. Bracketed words add. T 8
his] in's T 11 his T; thy old add. 12 his . his
T; thy . thy old add. 21 we distant are Haz. 22
yon R; your Q. 29 Troinouant Q 34 doubled
night S. : doubted knight Q. Ff: 'doubted night T

Cori. Full foure score yeares hath *Corineus*
liu'd, 40

Sometime in warre, sometime in quiet peace,
And yet I feele my selfe to be as strong
As erst I was in sommer of mine age,
Able to tosse this great vniwildie club
Which hath bin painted with my foemens
brains; 45

And with this club ile breake the strong arraie
Of *Humber* and his stragling souldiers,
Or loose my life amongst the thickest prease,
And die with honour in my latest daies.
Yet ere I die they all shall vnderstand 50
What force lies in stout *Corineus* hand.

Thra. And if *Thrasimachus* detract the
fight,

Either for weaknesse or for cowardise,
Let him not boast that *Brutus* was his eame,
Or that braue *Corineus* was his sire. 55

Loc. Then courage, souldiers, first for your
safetie,

Next for your peace, last for your victory.

[Exeunt.]

(Scene V. The field of battle.)

Sound the alarme.

Enter Hubba and Segar at one doore, and
Corineus at the other.

Cori. Art thou that *Humber*, prince of
fugitiues,

That by thy treason slewest yong *Albanact*?

Hub. I am his sonne that slew yong
Albanact,

And if thou take not heed, proud *Phrigan*,
Ile send thy soule vnto the Stigian lake, 5
There to complaine of *Humbers* iniuries.

Cori. You triumph, sir, before the victorie,
For *Corineus* is not so soone slaine.

But, cursed Scithians, you shall rue the day
That ere you came into *Albania*. 10

So perish they that enuie Brittaines wealth,
So let them die with endlesse infamie;
And he that seekes his soueraignes ouerthrow,
Would this my club might aggrauate his woe.

[Strikes them both downe with his club.]

(Scene VI. Another part of the field.)

Enter Humber.

(Hum.) Where may I finde some desart
wildernesse,

Where I may breath out curses as I would,
And scare the earth with my condemning
voice;

S. D. Scene V. add. M: place first indicated T 11 they
that] that they Q. S. D. Scene VI. add. M: place first
indicated T

Where euerie echoes repercussion
May helpe me to bewaile mine ouerthrow, 5
And aide me in my sorrowfull laments?
Where may I finde some hollow vncoth rocke,
Where I may damne, condemne, and ban my
fill

The heauens, the hell, the earth, the aire, the
fire,

And vtter curses to the concaue skie, 10
Which may infect the aery regions,
And light vpon the Brittain *Lochrines* head?
You vgly sprites that in *Cocitus* mourne,
And gnash your teeth with dolorous laments:
You fearfull dogs that in black *Læthe* howle,
And scare the ghosts with your wide open
throats: 16

You vgly ghosts that, flying from these dogs,
Do plunge your selues in *Puryflegiton*:
Come, all of you, and with your shrieking notes
Accompanie the Brittaines conquering hoast.
Come, fierce *Erinnis*, horrible with snakes; 21
Come, vgly Furies, armed with your whippes;
You threefold iudges of black *Tartarus*,
And all the armie of you hellish fiends,
With new found torments rack proud *Lochrins*
bones! 25

O gods, and starres! damned be the gods &
starres
That did not drowne me in faire *Thetis* plaines!
Curst be the sea, that with outragious waues,
With surging billowes did not riuie my shippes
Against the rocks of high *Cerannia*, 30
Or swallow me into her watrie gulfe!
Would God we had arriu'd vpon the shore
Where *Poliphemus* and the *Cyclops* dwell,
Or where the bloodie *Anthrophagie*
With greedie iawes deuours the wandring
wights! 35

Enter the ghost of Albanact.

But why comes *Albanacts* bloodie ghost,
To bring a corsue to our miseries?
Ist not inough to suffer shamefull flight,
But we must be tormented now with ghosts,
With apparitions fearfull to behold? 40

Ghoast. Reuenge! reuenge for blood!

Hum. So nought wil satisfie your wandring
ghost

But dire reuenge, nothing but *Humbers* fall;
Because he conquerd you in *Albany*.

Now, by my soule, *Humber* would be con-
demn'd 45

To *Tantals* hunger or *Ixions* wheele,

15 You] Yea Q 20 Accompaie Q 24 your F2
30 Cerannia M 31 swallow M: swallowed Q. Ff
33 Poliphemus Q 34 Anthrophagie Q: An-
thropophagites Pope 42 you s

Or to the vultur of *Prometheus*,
Rather then that this murther were vndone.
When as I die ile dragge thy cursed ghoast
Through all the riuers of foule *Erebus*, 50
Through burning sulphur of the Limbo-lake,
To allaie the burning furie of that heate
That rageth in mine euerlasting soule.
Alba. ghost. *Vindicta, vindicta.* [*Exeunt.*]

The 4. Act. Prologue.

Enter Ate as before. Then let their follow
Omphale, daughter to the king of Lydia,
hauing a club in her hand, and a lions
skinne on her back, Hercules following
with a distaffe. Then let Omphale turn
about, and taking off her pantofle, strike
Hercules on the head; then let them depart,
Ate remaining, saying:

Quem non Argolici mandata seuera Tyranni,
Non potuit Iuno vincere, vicit amor.

Stout *Hercules*, the mirroure of the world,
Sonne to *Alcmena* and great *Iupiter*,
After so many conquests wonne in field, 5
After so many monsters queld by force,
Yielded his valiant heart to *Omphale*,
A fearfull woman voyd of manly strength.
She tooke the club, and ware the lions skinne;
He tooke the wheele, and maidenly gan spinne.
So martiall *Lochrine*, cheerd with victorie, 11
Falleth in loue with *Humbers* concubine,
And so forgetteth peerlesse *Guendoline*.
His vnle *Corineus* stormes at this,
And forceth *Lochrine* for his grace to sue. 15
Loe here the summe, the processe doth ensue.
[*Exit.*]

The 1. Scene.

(*The camp of Lochrine.*)

Enter Lochrine, Camber, Corineus, Assaracus,
Thrasimachus, and the souldiers.

Loc. Thus from the fury of *Bellonas* broiles,
With sound of drumme and trumpets melodie,
The Brittain king returnes triumphantly.
The *Scythians* slaine with great occision
Do æqualize the grasse in multitude, 5
And with their blood haue stained the streaming
brookes,
Offering their bodies and their dearest blood
As sacrifice to *Albanactus* ghoast.
Now, cursed *Humber*, hast thou payd thy due,
For thy deceits and craftie trecheries, 10
For all thy guiles and damned stratagems,
With losse of life, and euerduring shame.

Prologue] Scene 1 Q . 9 wore Ff S. D. The
2. Scene Q Bracketed words add. T

Where are thy horses trapt with burnisht gold,
Thy trampling coursers rulde with foming bits?
Where are thy souldiers, strong and number-
lesse, 15

Thy valiant captains and thy noble peeres?
Euen as the countrie clownes with sharpest
sithes

Do mowe the withered grasse from off the
earth,

Or as the ploughman with his piercing share
Renteth the bowels of the fertile fields, 20

And rippeth vp the rootes with razours keene:
So *Locrine* with his mightie curtlexae

Hath cropped off the heads of all thy *Hunnes*;
So *Locrines* peeres haue daunted all thy peeres,

And droue thine hoast vnto confusion, 25
That thou maist suffer penance for thy fault,
And die for murdring valiant *Albanact*.

Cori. And thus, yea thus, shall all the rest
be seru'd

That seeke to enter *Albion* gainst our willes.
If the braue nation of the *Troglodites*, 30

If all the coleblacke *Aethiopians*,
If all the forces of the *Amazons*,

If all the hostes of the Barbarian lands,
Should dare to enter this our little world,

Soone should they rue their ouerbold attempts,
That after vs our progenie may say, 36

There lie the beasts that sought to vsurp our
land.

Loc. I, they are beasts that seeke to vsurp
our land,

And like to brutish beasts they shall be seru'd.
For mightie *Ioue*, the supream king of
heauen, 40

That guides the concourse of the *Metiors*,
And rules the motion of the azure skie,

Fights alwaies for the Brittaines safetie.—
But stail mee thinkes I heare some shriking
noise,

That draweth neare to our pauillion. 45

Enter the souldiers leading in Estrild.

Estrild. What prince so ere, adorn'd with
golden (crowne,)

Doth sway the regall scepter in his hand,
And thinks no chance can euer throw him
downe,

Or that his state shall euerlasting stand:
Let him behold poore *Estrild* in this plight, 50

The perfect platforme of a troubled wight.
Once was I guarded with mauortiall bands,

Compast with princes of the noble blood;
Now am I fallen into my foemens hands,

And with my death must pacifie their mood.

46 crowne om. Q: supplied Ff 47 sceptler Q
52 mauortiall Q 53 noblest T

O life, the harbour of calamities! 56
O death, the hauen of all miseries!

I could compare my sorrowes to thy woe,
Thou wretched queen of wretched *Pergamus*,

But that thou viewdst thy enemies ouerthrow.
Nigh to the rocke of high *Caphareus*, 61

Thou sawst their death, and then departedst
thence;

I must abide the victors insolence.
The gods that pittied thy continuall grieve

Transformd thy corps, and with thy corps thy
care; 65

Poore *Estrild* liues despairing of reliefe,
For friends in trouble are but fewe and rare.

What, said I fewe? I! fewe or none at all,
For cruell death made hauock of them all.

Thrice happie they whose fortune was so
good, 70

To end their liues, and with their liues their
woes!

Thrice haplesse I, whome fortune so with-
stood,

That cruelly she gaue me to my foes!
Oh, souldiers, is there any miserie,

To be comparde to fortunes trecherie. 75
Loc. Camber, this same shuld be the
Scithian queen.

Cam. So may we iudge by her lamenting
words.

Loc. So faire a dame mine eies did neuer
see;

With floods of woes she seems orewhelmed to
bee.

Cam. O *Locrine*, hath she not a cause for to
be sad? 80

Locrine (at one side of the stage).

If she haue cause to weepe for *Humbers* death,
And shead sault teares for her ouerthrow,

Locrine may well bewaile his proper grieve,
Locrine may moue his owne peculiar woe.

He, being conquerd, died a speedie death, 85
And felt not long his lamentable smart;

I, being conqueror, liue a lingring life,
And feele the force of *Cupids* suddaine stroke.

I gaue him cause to die a speedie death, 90
He left me cause to wish a speedie death.

Oh that sweete face painted with natures dye,
Those roseall cheeks mixt with a snowy white,

That decent necke surpassing yuorie,
Those comely brests which *Venus* well might
spite, 94

Are like to snares which wylie fowlers wrought,
Wherein my yeelding heart is prisoner caught.

The golden tresses of her daintie haire,

80 *Locrine* om. M 82 her] his dread S: her own
Molt. 85 He] Humber S 88 stroke] dart conj.
Th. for sake of rhyme 92 mixt Q

Which shine like rubies glittering with the
sunne, 98
Haue so entrapt poore *Locrines* lousie heart,
That from the same no way it can be wonne.
How true is that which oft I heard declard,
One dramme of ioy, must haue a pound of
care.

Estr. Hard is their fall who, from a golden
crown,
Are cast into a sea of wretchednesse.

Loc. Hard is their thrall who by *Cupids*
frowne 105

Are wrapt in waues of endlesse carefullnesse.
Estr. Oh kingdome, obiect to all miseries.

Loc. Oh loue, the extreemst of all extremi-
ties.

Let him go into his chaire.

A sold. My Lord, in ransacking the Scithian
tents,

I found this Ladie, and to manifest 110
That earnest zeale I beare vnto your grace,
I here present her to your maiestie.

Another sold. He lies, my Lord; I found the
Ladie first,

And here present her to your maiestie.

1. *Sold.* Presumptuous villaine, wilt thou
take my prize? 115

2. *Sold.* Nay, rather thou depriest me of
my right.

1. *Sol.* Resigne thy title, catiue, vnto me,
Or with my sword ile pearce thy cowards
loines.

2. *Sol.* Soft words, good sir, tis not inogh to
speak;

A barking dog doth sildome strangers bite.

Loc. Vnreuerent villains, striue you in our
sight? 121

Take them hence, Iaylor, to the dungeon;
There let them lie and trie their quarrell out.
But thou, faire princesse, be no whit dismayd,
But rather ioy that *Locrine* fauours thee. 125

Estr. How can he fauor me that slew my
spouse?

Loc. The chance of war, my loue, tooke
him from thee.

Est. But *Locrine* was the causer of his
death.

Loc. He was an enemy to *Locrines* state,
And slue my noble brother *Albanact*. 130

Estr. But he was linckt to me in marriage
bond,

And would you haue me loue his slaughterer?

Loc. Better to liue, then not to liue at all.

Estrild. Better to die renownd for chastitie,

101 declare *S* 105 by *Cupido's M*: still by
Cupid's T 107 object| subject *S* 133 Better
to love conj. *St.*: Better to loue and liue conj. pr. *cd.*

Then liue with shame and endlesse infamie.
What would the common sort report of me,
If I forget my loue, and cleaue to thee? 137

Loc. Kings need not feare the vulgar sen-
tences.

Estr. But Ladies must regard their honest
name.

Loc. Is it a shame to liue in marriage bonds?

Estr. No, but to be a strumpet to a king.

Loc. If thou wilt yeeld to *Locrines* burning
loue,

Thou shalt be queene of faire *Albania*.

Estr. But *Guendoline* will vndermine my
state.

Lo. Vpon mine honor, thou shalt haue no
harme. 145

Est. Then lo, braue *Locrine*, *Estrild* yeelds
to thee;

And by the gods whom thou doest inuocate,
By the dead ghoast of thy deceased sire,
By thy right hand and by thy burning loue,
Take pitie on poore *Estrilds* wretched thrall.

Cori. Hath *Locrine* then forgot his *Guen-
doline*, 151

That thus he courts the Scithians paramore?

What, are the words of *Brute* so soone forgot?
Are my deserts so quickly out of minde?

Haue I bene faithfull to thy sire now dead, 155
Haue I protected thee from *Humbers* hands,
And doest thou quite me with vngratitude?

Is this the guerdon for my greuous wounds,
Is this the honour for my labors past?

Now, by my sword, *Locrine*, I sweare to thee,
This iniury of thine shall be repaide. 161

Loc. Vncle, scorne you your royall souer-
aigne,

As if we stood for cyphers in the court?
Vpbraid you me with those your benefits?

Why, it was a subjects dutie so to do. 165

What you haue done for our deceased sire,
We know, and all know you haue your reward.

Cori. Auaunt, proud princex; brau'st thou
me withall?

Assure thy self, though thou be Emperour,
Thou nere shalt carry this vnpunished. 170

Cam. Pardon my brother, noble *Corineus*;
Pardon this once and it shall be amended.

Assar. Cousin, remember *Brutus* latest
words,

How he desired you to cherish them;
Let not this fault so much incense your minde,

Which is not yet passed all remedie. 176

Cori. Then, *Locrine*, loe, I reconcile my
selfe;

But as thou lou'st thy life, so loue thy wife.

156 hand *F2*, etc. 157 quit *Ff*, etc. ingrati-
tude *M*

But if thou violate those promises,
Blood and reuenge shall light vpon thy head.
Come, let vs backe to stately *Troinouant*, 181
Where all these matters shall be setteled.

Locrine (to himselfe). Millions of diuels wayt
vpon thy soule!

Legions of spirits vexe thy impious ghoast!
Ten thousand torments rack thy cursed bones!
Let euerie thing that hath the vse of breath 186
Be instruments and workers of thy death!

[*Exeunt.*]

The 2. Scene.

(*A forest.*)

*Enter Humber alone, his haire hanging ouer
his shoulders, his armes all bloodie, and
a dart in one hand.*

Hum. What basiliskt was hatched in this
place,
Where euerie thing consumed is to nought?
What fearefull Furie haunts these cursed
groues,

Where not a roote is left for *Humbers* meate?
Hath fell *Alecto*, with inuenomed blasts, 5
Breathed forth poyson in these tender plaines?
Hath triple *Cerberus*, with contagious fome,
Sowde *Aconitum* mongst these withered
hearbess?

Hath dreadfull *Fames* with her charming rods
Brought barreinness on euery fruitfull tree?
What, not a roote, no frute, no beast, no bird,
To nourish *Humber* in this wilderness? 12
What would you more, you fiends of *Erebus*?
My verie intralls burne for want of drinke,
My bowels crie, *Humber*, giue vs some meate.
But wretched *Humber* can giue you no meate;
These foule accursed groues affoord no meat.
This fruitles soyle, this ground, brings forth no
meat. 18

The gods, hard harted gods, yeeld me no meat.
Then how can *Humber* giue you any meat?

*Enter Strumbo with a pitchforke, and a scotch-
cap, saying.*

How do you, maisters, how do you? how haue
you scaped hanging this long time? Yfaith,
I haue scapt many a scouring this yeare; but
I thanke God I haue past them all with a good
couragio, *couragio*, & my wife & I are in
great loue and charitie now, I thank my man-
hood & my strength. For I wil tell you,
maisters: vpon a certain day at night I came
home, to say the verie truth, with my stomacke
full of wine, and ran vp into the chamber

where my wife soberly sate rocking my little
babie, leaning her back against the bed, sing-
ing lullabie. Now, when she saw me come
with my nose formost, thinking that I (had)
bin drunk, as I was indeed, (she) snatcht vp
a fagot stick in her hand, and came furiously
marching towards me with a bigge face, as
though shee would haue eaten mee at a bit;
thundering out these words vnto me: *Thou
drunken knaue, where hast thou bin so long?*
*I shall teach thee how to benight mee an other
time;* and so shee began to play knaues
trumps. Now, although I trembled, fearing she
would set her ten commandements in my face,
(I) ran within her, and taking her lustily by the
midle, I carried her valiantly to the bed, and
flinging her vpon it, flung my selfe vpon her;
and there I delighted her so with the sport I
made, that euer after she wold call me sweet
husband, and so banisht brawling for euer.
And to see the good will of the wench! she
bought with her portion a yard of land, and
by that I am now become one of the richest
men in our parish. Well, masters, whats a
clocke? it is now breakfast time; you shall see
what meat I haue here for my breakfast. 56

[*Let him sit down and pull out
his vittailles.*]

Hum. Was euer land so fruitlesse as this
land?

Was euer groue so gracelesse as this groue?
Was euer soyle so barrein as this soyle?
Oh no: the land where hungry *Fames* dwelt
May no wise æqualize this cursed land; 61
No, euen the climat of the torrid zone
Brings forth more fruit then this accursed
groue.

Nere came sweet *Ceres*, nere came *Venus* here;
Triptolemus, the god of husbandmen, 65
Nere sowed his seed in this foule wilderness.
The hunger-bitten dogs of *Acheron*,
Chast from the ninefold *Puriflegiton*,
Haue set their footsteps in this damned
ground. 69

The yron harted *Furies*, arm'd with snakes,
Scattered huge *Hidras* ouer all the plaines,
Which haue consum'd the grasse, the herbes,
the trees;
Which haue drunke vp the flowing water
springs.

*Strumbo, hearing his voice, shall start vp
and put meat in his pocket, seeking to
hide himselfe.*

Hum. Thou great commander of the starry
skie, 74

S. D. The 3. Scene Q Bracketed words add. S
6 in) on S 11 nor fruit, nor beast, nor bird S
24 good couraggio, and M

34 had om. Q 35 she add. M 45 I add. M

That guidst the life of euerie mortall wight,
From the inclosures of the fleeting clouds
Raine downe some foode, or else I faint and
die:

Powre downe some drinke, or else I faint and
die.

O *Iupiter*, hast thou sent *Mercury*
In clownish shape to minister some foode? 80
Some meate! some meate! some meate!

Strum. O, alas, sir, ye are deceived. I
am not *Mercury*; I am *Strumbo*.

Hum. Giue me som meat, villain; giue me
som meat,
Or gainst this rock Ile dash thy cursed braines,
And rent thy bowels with my bloodie hands. 86
Giue me some meat, villaine; giue me some
meat!

Strum. By the faith of my bodie, good
fellow, I had rather giue an whole oxe
then that thou shuldst serue me in that sort.
Dash out my braines? O horrible! terrible!
I thinke I haue a quarry of stones in my pocket.

*Let him make as though hee would giue
him some, and as he putteth out his
hand, enter the ghost of Albanact, and
strike him on the hand; and so Strumbo
runnes out, Humber following him.*

[Exit.

Alba. ghost. Loe, here the gift of fell
ambition,
Of vsurpation and of trecherie! 94
Loe, here the harmes that wait vpon all those
That do intrude themselves in others lands,
Which are not vnder their dominion. [Exit.

The 3. Scene.

(A chamber in the Royal Palace.)

Enter Locrine alone.

Loc. Seuen yeares hath aged *Corineus* liu'd,
To *Locrines* grieve, and faire *Estrildas* woe,
And seuen yeares more he hopeth yet to liue.
Oh supreme *Ioue*, annihilate this thought!
Should he enioy the aires fruition? 5
Should he enioy the benefit of life?
Should he contemplate the radiant sunne,
That makes my life equal to dreadfull death?
Venus, conuay this monster fro the earth,
That disobeieth thus thy sacred hests! 10
Cupid, conuay this monster to darke hell,
That disanulls thy mothers sugred lawes!
Mars, with thy target all beset with flames,
With murthering blade bereaue him of his life,
That hindreth *Locrine* in his sweetest ioyes!
And yet, for all his diligent aspect, 16

His wrathfull eies, piercing like *Linces* eies,
Well haue I ouermatcht his subtiltie,
Nigh *Deurolitum*, by the pleasant Lee,
Where brackish *Thamis* slides with siluer
streames, 20

Making a breach into the grassie downes,
A curious arch, of costly marble fraught,
Hath *Locrine* framed vnderneath the ground;
The walls whereof, garnisht with diamonds,
With opihirs, rubies, glistering emeralds, 25
And interlast with sun-bright carbuncles,
Lighten the roome with artificiall day:
And from the Lee with water-flowing pipes
The moisture is deriu'd into this arch,
Where I haue placed faire *Estrild* secretly. 30
Thither eftsoones, accompanied with my page,
I couertly visit my harts desire,
Without suspicion of the meanest eie;
For loue aboundeth still with pollicie:
And thither still meanes *Locrine* to repaire,
Till *Atropos* cut off mine vnles life. 36

[Exit.

The 4. Scene.

(The entrance of a cave, near which runs the
river, afterward the Humber.)

Enter Humber alone, saying:

Hum. O vita misero longa, fœlici breuis,
Eheu! malorum james extremum
malum.

Long haue I liued in this desert caue,
With eating hawes and miserable rootes,
Deuouring leaues and beastly excrements. 5
Cauces were my beds, and stones my pillow-
beares,
Feare was my sleep, and horror was my
dreame,
For still me thought, at euery boisterous blast,
Now *Locrine* comes, now, *Humber*, thou must
die: 9

So that for feare and hunger, *Humbers* minde
Can neuer rest, but alwaies trembling stands,
O, what *Danubius* now may quench my thirst?
What *Euphrates*, that lightfoot *Euripus*,
May now allaie the furie of that heat,
Which, raging in my entralls, eates me vp? 15
You gastly diuels of the ninefold *Sticks*,
You damned ghoasts of ioylesse *Acheron*,
You mournfull soules, vext in *Abissus* vaults,
You coleblack diuels of *Auernus* pond,
Come, with your fleshhooks rent my famisht
arms, 20
These armes that haue sustaind their maisters
life.

19 *Durolitum M*: *Deucolitus Q*. *Ff* 22 wrought
conj. *St*. 24 garnish *Q*. *S. D.* The 5. Scene *Q*
Bracketed words add. *S* 2 *Ehen malorem Q*

82 you *M* *S. D.* The 4. Scene *Q* Bracketed words
add. *S* 7 sonne *Q*: sun *Ff* 9 from *F* 2

Come, with your raisours rippe my bowels vp,
With your sharp fireforks crack my sterued
bones:

Vse me as you will, so *Humber* may not lue.
Accursed gods, that rule the starry poles, 25
Accursed *Ioue*, king of the cursed gods,
Cast downe your lightning on poore *Humbers*
head,

That I may leaue this deathlike life of mine!
What, heare you not? and shall not *Humber* die?
Nay, I will die, though all the gods say nay! 30
And, gentle *Aby*, take my troubled corps,
Take it and keep it from all mortall eies,
That none may say, when I haue lost my
breath,
The very fouds conspird gainst *Humbers*
death.

[*Fling himselfe into the riuer.*]

Enter the ghoast of Albanact.

En cædem sequitur cædes, in cæde quiesco. 35
Humber is dead! ioy heauens! leap earth!
dance trees!

Now maist thou reach thy apples, *Tantalus*,
And with them feed thy hunger-bitten limmes!
Now, *Sisiphus*, leaue tumbling of thy rock,
And rest thy restlesse bones vpon the same!
Vnbind *Ixion*, cruell *Rhadamanth*, 41
And laie proud *Humber* on the whirling wheele.
Backe will I post to hell mouth *Tanarus*,
And passe *Cocitus*, to the Elysian fields,
And tell my father *Brutus* of these newes. 45
[*Exit.*]

The 5. Act. Prologue.

Enter Ate as before. Iason, leading Creons
daughter. Medea, following, hath a gar-
land in her hand, and putting it on Creons
daughters head, setteth it on fire, and then,
killing Iason and her, departeth.

Ate. Non tam Tinacriis exaestuat Aetna
cauernis,
Læsæ furtiuo quam cor mulieris
amore.

Medea, seeing Iason leaue her loue,
And choose the daughter of the *Thebane* king,
Went to her diuellish charmes to worke
reuenge; 5
And raising vp the triple *Hecate*,
With all the rout of the condemned fiends,
Framed a garland by her magick skill,
With which she wrought *Iason* and *Creons* ill.
So *Guendoline*, seeing her selfe misvs'd, 10
And *Humbers* paramour possesse her place,
Flies to the dukedome of *Cornubia*,

31 *Abus Haz.* Prologue] Scene 1 Q 1 *Tinacriis*
excestat Q: corr. Ff

And with her brother, stout *Thrasimachus*,
Gathering a power of Cornish souldiers,
Giues battaile to her husband and his hoste,
Nigh to the riuer of great *Mertia*. 16
The chances of this dismall massacre
That which insueth shortly will vnfold. [*Exit*]

The 1. Scene.

[*A chamber in the Royal Palace.*]

Enter Locrine, Camber, Assarachus,
Thrasimachus.

Assa. But tell me, cousin, died my brother
so?

Now who is left to helplesse *Albion*,
That as a pillar might vphold our state,
That might strike terror to our daring foes?
Now who is left to haplesse *Brittanie*, 5
That might defend her from the barbarous
hands

Of those that still desire her ruinous fall,
And seeke to worke her downfall and decaie?

Cam. I, vnle, death is our common
emie,

And none but death can match our matchles
power: 10

Witnessse the fall of *Albioneus* crewe,
Witnessse the fall of *Humber* and his *Hunnes*.
And this foule death hath now increast our
woe,

By taking *Corineus* from this life,
And in his roome leauing vs worlds of care. 15

Thra. But none may more bewaile his
mournful hearse,

Then I that am the issue of his loines.
Now foule befall that cursed *Humbers* throat,
That was the causer of his lingring wound.

Lo. Teares cannot raise him from the dead
again. 20

But wher's my Ladie, mistresse *Guendoline*?
Thra. In *Cornwall*, *Locrine*, is my sister
now,

Prouiding for my fathers funerall.

Lo. And let her ther prouide her mourning
weeds

And mourne for euer her owne widdow-hood.
Ner shall she come within our pallace gate, 26
To countercheck braue *Locrine* in his loue.

Go, boy, to *Deurolitum*, downe the Lee,
Vnto the arch where louely *Estrild* lies.

Bring her and *Sabren* strait vnto the court; 30
She shall be queene in *Guendolinas* roome.

Let others waile for *Corineus* death;
I meane not so to macerate my minde
For him that hard me from my hearts desire.

S. D. The 2. Scene Q Bracketed words add. S
1 my] by Q 28 *Deurolitum* Q, Ff: *Durolitum* M

Thra. Hath *Lochrine*, then, forsooke his
Guendoline? 35

Is *Corineus* death so soone forgot?

If there be gods in heauen, as sure there be,
If there be fiends in hell, as needs there must,
They will reuenge this thy notorious wrong,
And powre their plagues vpon thy cursed head.

Loc. What! prat'st thou, pesant, to thy
soueraigne? 41

Or art thou strooken in some extasie?

Doest thou not tremble at our royall lookes?

Dost thou not quake, when mighty *Lochrine*
frowns?

Thou beardedle boy, wer't not that *Lochrine*
scornes 45

To vexe his mind with such a hartlesse childe,
With the sharpe point of this my battale-axe,
I would send thy soule to *Puriflegiton*.

Thra. Though I be yong and of a tender
age,

Yet will I cope with *Lochrine* when he dares. 50

My noble father with his conquering sword,

Slew the two giants, kings of *Aquitaine*.

Thrasimachus is not so degenerate

That he should feare and tremble at the lookes

Or taunting words of a venerian squire. 55

Loc. Menacest thou thy roiall soueraigne,

Vnciuill, not beeseing such as you?

Iniurious traitor (for he is no lesse

That at defiance standeth with his king)

Leaue these thy tauntes, leaue these thy brag-
ging words, 60

Vlesse thou meane to leaue thy wretched life.

Thra. If princes staine their glorious dig-
nitie

With ougly spots of monstrous infamie,

They leese their former estimation,

And throw themselues into a hell of hate. 65

Loc. Wilt thou abuse my gentle patience,

As though thou didst our high displeasure
scorne?

Proud boy, that thou maist know thy prince is
mou'd,

Yea, greatly mou'd at this thy swelling pride,

We leaue thee for euer from our court. 70

Thra. Then, losell *Lochrine*, looke vnto thy
selfe,

Thrasimachus will venge this iniurie. [*Exit.*

Lo. Farwel, proud boy, and learn to vse thy
toong.

Assa. Alas, my Lord, you shuld haue cald
to mind

The latest words that *Brutus* spake to you: 75

How he desirede you, by the obedience

That children ought to beare vnto their sire,

45 wert *Q* 52 giant kings *S* 57 thou *S* 61
mean'st *Ff*

To loue and fauour Ladie *Guendoline*.

Consider this, that if the iniurie

Do mooue her mind, as certainly it will, 80

Warre and dissention followes speedely.

What though her power be not so great as
yours?

Haue you not seene a mightie elephant

Slaine by the biting of a silly mouse?

Euen so the chance of warre inconstant is. 85

Loc. Peace, vncle, peace, and cease to talke
hereof;

For he that seekes, by whispering this or that,

To trouble *Lochrine* in his sweetest life,

Let him perswade himselfe to die the death.

Enter the Page, with Estrild and Sabren.

Estr. O, say me, Page, tell me, where is the
king? 90

Wherefore doth he send for me to the court?

Is it to die? is it to end my life?

Say me, sweete boy, tell me and do not faine!

Page. No, trust me, madame; if you will
credit the litle honestie that is yet left me,
there is no such danger as you feare. But
prepare your selfe; yonders the king. 97

Estr. Then, *Estrild*, lift thy dazed spirits
vp,

And blesse that blessed time, that day, that
houre,

That warlike *Lochrine* first did fauour thee.

Peace to the king of *Brittany*, my loue! 101

Peace to all those that loue and fauour him!

Lochrine (taking her vp). Doth *Estrild* fall
with such submission

Before her seruant, king of *Albion*?

Arise, faire Ladie; leaue this lowly cheare.

Lift vp those lookes that cherish *Lochrines*
heart, 106

That I may freely view that roseall face,

Which so intangled hath my luesick brest.

Now to the court, where we will court it out,

And passe the night and day in *Venus* sports.

Frollick, braue peeres; be ioyfull with your
king. [*Exeunt.*]

The 2. Scene.

(*The camp of Guendolen.*)

Enter Guendoline, Thrasimachus, Madan,
and the souldiers

Guen. You gentle winds, that with your
modest blasts

Passe through the circuit of the heauenly vault,

Enter the clouds vnto the throne of *Ioue*,

And beare my praiers to his all hearing eares,
For *Lochrine* hath forsaken *Guendoline*, 5

S. D. The 3. Scene *Q*: corr. *M* Bracketed words
add. *S*

And learnt to loue proud *Humbers* concubine.

You happie sprites, that in the concaue skie
With pleasant ioy enioy your sweetest loue,
Shed forth those teares with me, which then
you shed,

When first you woo'd your ladies to your wils.
Those teares are fittest for my wofull case, 11
Since *Locrine* shunnes my nothing pleasant
face.

Blush heauens, blush sunne, and hide thy
shining beams;

Shadow thy radiant locks in gloomy clouds;
Denie thy cheerfull light vnto the world, 15
Where nothing rains but falshood and deceit.
What said I? falshood? I, that filthie crime,
For *Locrine* hath forsaken *Guendoline*.

Behold the heauens do waile for *Guendoline*.
The shining sunne doth blush for *Guendoline*.
The liquid aire doth weep for *Guendoline*. 21
The verie ground doth grone for *Guendoline*.
I, they are milder then the Brittain king,
For he reiecteth lucklesse *Guendoline*.

Thra. Sister, complaints are bootlesse in
this cause; 25

This open wrong must haue an open plague,
This plague must be repaid with grieuous
warre,

This warre must finish with *Locrinus* death;
His death will soone extinguish our complaints.

Guen. O no, his death wil more augment
my woes. 30

He was my husband, braue *Thrasimachus*,
More deare to me then the apple of mine eie,
Nor can I finde in heart to worke his scathe.

Thra. Madame, if not your proper iniuries,
Nor my exile, can moue you to reuenge, 35
Thinke on our father *Corineus* words;
His words to vs stands alwaies for a lawe.
Should *Locrine* liue that caus'd my fathers
death?

Should *Locrine* liue that now diuorceth you?
The heauens, the earth, the aire, the fire
reclaimes, 40

And then why should all we denie the same?
Guen. Then henceforth, farwel womanish
complaints!

All childish pitie henceforth, then, farwel!
But, curs'd *Locrine*, looke vnto thy selfe,
For *Nemesis*, the mistresse of reuenge, 45
Sits arm'd at all points on our dismall blades;
And curs'd *Estrild*, that inflamed his heart,
Shall, if I liue, die a reproachfull death.

Madan. Mother, though nature makes me
to lament

My lucklesse fathers froward lecherie, 50

6 learne *Q*: corr, *Ff*

Yet, for he wrongs my Ladie mother thus,
I, if I could, my selfe would worke his death.
Thra. See, madame, see, the desire of
reuenge

Is in the children of a tender age!
Forward, braue souldiers, into *Mertia*, 55
Where we shall braue the coward to his face.
[*Exeunt*.]

The 3. Scene.

(*The camp of Locrine*.)

Enter *Locrine*, *Estrild*, *Sabren*, *Assarachus*,
and the souldiers.

Loc. Tell me, *Assarachus*, are the Cornish
chuffes

In such great number come to *Mertia*?
And haue they pitched there their pettie hoste,
So close vnto our royall mansion?

Assa. They are, my Lord, and meane incon-
tinent 5

To bid defiance to your maiestie.

Loc. It makes me laugh, to thinke that
Guendoline

Should haue the hart to come in armes gainst
me.

Estr. Alas, my Lord, the horse wil runne
amaïne,

When as the spurre doth gall him to the bone.
Iealousie, *Locrine*, hath a wicked sting. 11

Loc. Saist thou so, *Estrild*, beauties para-
gon?

Well, we will trie her chollor to the prooffe,
And make her know, *Locrine* can brooke no
braues.

March on, *Assarachus*; thou must lead the
way, 15

And bring vs to their proud pauillion. [*Exeunt*.]

The 4. Scene.

(*The field of battle*.)

*Enter the ghost of Corineus, with thunder &
lightening*.

Ghost. Behold, the circuit of the azure sky
Throwes forth sad throbs and grieuous suspirs,
Preiudicating *Locrines* ouerthrow.

The fire casteth forth sharpe darts of flames,
The great foundation of the triple world 5
Trembleth and quaketh with a mightie noise,
Presaging bloodie massacres at hand.

The wandring birds that flutter in the darke,
When hellish night, in cloudie charriot seated,
Casteth her mists on shadie *Tellus* face, 10

S. D. The 4. Scene *Q*: corr. *M* Bracketed words add.
S Habren *Q*, *Ff* 8 against *F* 2, etc. *S. D.*
The 5. Scene *Q*: corr. *M* Bracketed words add. *S*
2 grievously *S*

With sable mantels couering all the earth,
 Now flies abroad amid the cheerfull day,
 Foretelling some vnwonted miserie.
 The snarling curres of darkened *Tartarus*,
 Sent from *Auernus* ponds by *Radamanth*, 15
 With howling ditties pester euerie wood.
 The watric ladies and the lightfoote fawnes,
 And all the rabble of the wooddie Nymphs,
 All trembling hide themselues in shadie groues,
 And shrowd themselues in hideous hollow pitts.
 The boysterous *Boreas* thundreth forth
 reuenge; 21

The stonie rocks crie out on sharpe reuenge;
 The thornie bush pronounceth dire reuenge.
Sound the alarme.

Now, *Corineus*, staie and see reuenge,
 And feede thy soule with *Locrines* ouerthrow.
 Behold, they come; the trumpets call them
 forth; 26

The roaring drummes summon the souldiers.
 Loe, where their army glistereth on the plaines!
 Throw forth thy lightning, mightie *Iupiter*,
 And powre thy plagues on cursed *Locrines*
 head. 30

[*Stand aside.*]

Enter *Locrine*, *Estrild*, *Assaracus*, *Sabren* and
 their soldiers at one doore; *Thrasimachus*,
Guendolin, *Madan* and their followers at
 an other.

Loc. What, is the tigre started from his
 caue?

Is *Guendoline* come from *Cornubia*,
 That thus she braueth *Locrine* to the teeth?
 And hast thou found thine armour, prettie
 boy,

Accompanied with these thy stragling mates?
Beleeue me, but this enterprise was bold, 36
 And well deserueth commendation.

Guen. I, *Locrine*, traiterous *Locrine*! we are
 come,

With full pretence to seeke thine ouerthrow.
 What haue I don, that thou shouldst scorn me
 thus? 40

What haue I said, that thou shouldst me reiect?
 Haue I bene disobedient to thy words?
 Haue I bewrayd thy Arcane secrecie?
 Haue I dishonoured thy marriage bed
 With filthie crimes, or with lasciuious lusts?
 Nay, it is thou that hast dishonoured it; 46
 Thy filthie minde, orecome with filthie lusts,
 Yeeldeth vnto affections filthie darts.

Vnkind, thou wrongst thy first and truest feer;
 Vnkind, thou wrongst thy best and dearest
 friend; 50

Vnkind, thou scornst all skilfull *Brutus* lawes,

S. D. Habren *Q*, *Ff*

Forgetting father, vncle, and thy selfe.

Estr. Beleeue me, *Locrine*, but the girle is
 wise,

And well would seeme to make a vestall Nunne.
 How finely frames she her oration! 55

Thra. *Locrin*, we came not here to fight
 with words,

Words that can neuer winne the victorie;
 But for you are so merie in your frumpes,
 Vnsheath your swords, and trie it out by force,
 That we may see who hath the better hand.

Loc. Thinkst thou to dare me, bold *Thrasimachus*? 61

Thinkst thou to feare me with thy taunting
 braues,

Or do we seeme too weake to cope with thee?
 Soone shall I shew thee my fine cutting blade,
 And with my sword, the messenger of death,
 Seal thee an acquittance for thy bold attempts.
 [*Exeunt.*]

Sound the alarme. *Enter* *Locrine*, *Assaracus*,
 and a souldier at one doore; *Guendoline*,
Thrasimachus, at an other; *Locrine* and his
 followers driven back. Then let *Locrine*
 & *Estrild* enter again in a maze.

Loc. O faire *Estrilda*, we haue lost the field;
Thrasimachus hath wonne the victorie,
 And we are left to be a laughing stocke,
 Scoft at by those that are our enemies. 70
 Ten thousand souldiers, armd with sword &
 shield,

Preuaile against an hundred thousand men;
Thrasimachus, incenst with fuming ire,
 Rageth amongst the faintheart souldiers
 Like to grim *Mars*, when couered with his
 targe 75

He fought with *Diomedes* in the field,
 Close by the banks of siluer *Simois*.

[*Sound the alarme.*]

O louely *Estrild*, now the chase begins:
 Ner shall we see the stately *Troynouant*,
 Mounted on the coursers garnisht all with
 pearles; 80

Ner shall we view the faire *Concordia*,
 Vnlesse as captiues we be thither brought.
 Shall *Locrine* then be taken prisoner
 By such a yongling as *Thrasimachus*?
 Shall *Guendolina* captiuate my loue? 85
 Ner shall mine eies behold that dismall houre;
 Ner will I view that ruthfull spectacle,
 For with my sword, this sharpe curtleaxe,
 Ile cut in sunder my accursed heart.

But O! you iudges of the ninefold *Stix*, 90

54 vastall *Q* 66 a quittance *S* *S. D.* New scene
 in *S. Moll.* 80 with coursers *Ff*, *R*: on coursers *M*
 88 this] or this *R*: this sharpest *S*: this my *Moll.*

Which with incessant torments racke the
ghoasts
Within the bottomlesse *Abissus* pits,
You gods, commanders of the heauenly
spheres,
Whose will and lawes irreuocable stands,
Forgiue, this foule accursed sinne! 95
Forget, O gods, this foule condemned fault!
And now, my sword, that in so many fights

[*kisse his sword.*]

Hast sau'd the life of *Brutus* and his sonne,
End now his life that wisheth still for death;
Worke now his death that wisheth still for
death; 100
Worke now his death that hateth still his life.
Farwell, faire *Estrild*, beauties paragon,
Fram'd in the front of forlorne miseries!
Ner shall mine eyes behold thy sunshine eies,
But when we meet in the Elysian fields; 105
Thither I go before with hastened pace.
Farwell, vaine world, and thy enticing snares!
Farwell, foule sinne, and thy enticing pleasures!

And welcome, death, the end of mortall
smart,

Welcome to *Locrines* ouerburthened hart!

[*Thrust himselfe through with his sword.*]

Estr. Break, hart, with sobs and greeuous
suspurs! 111

Streame forth, you teares, from forth my
watry eies;

Helpe me to mourne for warlike *Locrines* death!
Powre downe your teares, you watry regions,
For mightie *Locrine* is bereft of life! 115

O fickle fortune! O vnstable world!
What else are all things that this globe con-
taines,

But a confused chaos of mishaps,
Wherein, as in a glasse, we plainly see,

That all our life is but as a Tragedie? 120

Since mightie kings are subject to mishap—
I, mightie kings are subject to mishap!—

Since martiall *Locrine* is bereft of life,
Shall *Estrild* liue, then, after *Locrines* death?

Shall loue of life barre her from *Locrines*
sword? 125

O no, this sword, that hath bereft his life,
Shall now deprue me of my fleeting soule:

Strengthen these hands, O mightie *Iupiter*,
That I may end my wofull miserie.

Locrine, I come; *Locrine*, I follow thee. 130

[*Kill her selfe.*]

Sound the alarme. Enter Sabren.

Sab. What dolefull sight, what ruthful
spectacle

106 hastened Q 120 as om. Ff, etc. 122 om. S,
Haz., Molt.

Hath fortune offred to my haplesse hart?
My father slaine with such a fatall sword,
My mother murthred by a mortall wound?
What *Thracian* dog, what barbarous *Mir-
midon*, 135

Would not relent at such a ruthfull case?
What fierce *Achilles*, what hard stonie flint,

Would not bemone this mournfull Tragedie?
Locrine, the map of magnanimitie,

Lies slaughtered in this foule accursed caue,
Estrild, the perfect patterne of renowne, 141

Natures sole wonder, in whose bewteous breasts
All heauenly grace and vertue was inshrind:

Both massacred are dead within this caue,
And with them dies faire *Pallas* and sweet
loue. 145

Here lies a sword, and *Sabren* hath a heart;
This blessed sword shall cut my cursed heart,

And bring my soule vnto my parents ghoasts,
That they that liue and view our Tragedie

May mourne our case with mournfull plauditi-
ties. 150

[*Let her offer to kill her selfe.*]

Ay me, my virgins hands are too too weake,
To penetrate the bullwarke of my brest;

My fingers, vsde to tune the amorous lute,
Are not of force to hold this steely glauiue.

So I am left to waile my parents death, 155
Not able for to worke my proper death.

Ah, *Locrine*, honord for thy noblenesse!
Ah, *Estrild*, famous for thy constancie!

Il may they fare that wrought your mortall
ends!

*Enter Guendoline, Thrasimachus, Madan, and
the souldiers.*

Guen. Search, souldiers, search, find *Locrin*
and his loue; 160

Find the proud strumpet, *Humbers* concubine,
That I may change those her so pleasing
lookes

To pale and ignominious aspect.
Find me the issue of their cursed loue,

Find me yoong *Sabren*, *Locrines* only ioy, 165
That I may glut my mind with lukewarme
blood,

Swiftly distilling from the bastards brest.
My fathers ghoast stil haunts me for reuenge,

Crying, *Reuenge my ouerhastened death.*
My brothers exile and mine owne diuorce 170

Banish remorse cleane from my brazen heart,
All mercie from mine adamantine breasts.

Thra. Nor doth thy husband, louely *Guen-
doline*,

150 plaudites F2: plaudite M: plaudits Haz.
151 virgin M 154 glaive Q: glain F1 155 lief Q

172 adamantine Q: corr. R

That wonted was to guide our stailles steps,
 Enioy this light; see where he mured lies 175
 By lucklesse lot and froward frowning fate;
 And by him lies his louely paramour,
 Faire *Estrild*, goared with a dismall sword;—
 And as it seemes, both mured by themselues,
 Claspeng each other in their feeble armes, 180
 With louing zeale, as if for companie
 Their vncontented corpes were yet content
 To passe foule *Stix* in *Charons* ferry-boat.

Guen. And hath proud *Estrild* then pre-
 uented me?

Hath she escaped *Guendolinas* wrath 185
 Violently, by cutting off her life?

Would God she had the monstrous *Hidras* liues,
 That euery houre she might haue died a death
 Worse then the swing of old *Ixions* wheele;
 And euery houre reuiue to die againe, 190
 As *Titius*, bound to housles *Caucason*,

Doth feed the substance of his owne mishap,
 And euery day for want of foode doth die,
 And euery night doth liue, againe to die.

But staie! meethinks I heare some fainting
 voice, 195

Mournfully weeping for their lucklesse death.

Sa. You mountain nimphs, which in these
 desarts raig,

Cease off your hastie-chase of sauadge beasts;
 Prepare to see a heart opprest with care;

Addresse your eares to heare a mournfull stile!
 No humane strength, no work can work my
 weale, 201

Care in my hart so tyrant like doth deale.

You Driades and lightfoote *Satiri*,

You gracious *Faries* which, at euening tide,
 Your closets leaue with heauenly beautie
 storde, 205

And on your shoulders spread your golden
 locks;

You sauadge beares in caues and darkened
 dennes,

Come waile with me the martiall *Locrines*'
 death;

Come mourn with me for beauteous *Estrilds*
 deth.

Ah! louing parents, little do you know 210
 What sorrow *Sabren* suffers for your thrall.

Guen. But may this be, and is it possible?
 Liues *Sabren* yet to expiat my wrath?

Fortune, I thanke thee for this curtesie;
 And let me neuer see one prosperous houre,

If *Sabren* die not a reproachfull death. 216

Sab. Hard harted death, that, when the
 wretched call,

Art furthest off, and sildom heerst at all;
 But, in the midst of fortunes good successe,
 Vncalled comes, and sheeres our life in
 twaine: 220

When wil that houre, that blessed houre, draw
 nie,

When poore distressed *Sabren* may be gone?

Sweet *Atropos*, cut off my fatal thred!

What art thou death? shall not poore *Sabren*
 die?

Guendoline (taking her by the chin shall say
 thus).

Guen. Yes, damsell, yes; *Sabren* shall surely
 die, 225

Though all the world should seeke to saue her
 life;

And not a common death shall *Sabren* die,
 But after strange and greuous punishments
 Shortly inflicted vpon thy bastards head,
 Thou shalt be cast into the cursed streames,
 And feede the fishes with thy tender flesh.

Sab. And thinkst thou then, thou cruell
 homicide, 232

That these thy deeds shall be vnpunished?

No, traitor, no; the gods will venge these
 wrongs,

The fiends of hell will marke these iniuries.

Neuer shall these blood-sucking mastie curres,
 Bring wretched *Sabren* to her latest home;

For I my selfe, in spite of thee and thine,
 Meane to abridge my former destenies,

And that which *Locrines* sword could not per-
 form, 240

This pleasant streame shall present bring to
 passe.

[*She drowneth her selfe.*

Guen. One mischiefe followes (on) anothers
 necke.

Who would haue thought so yoong a mayd as
 she

With such a courage wold haue sought her
 death?

And for because this Riuer was the place 245

Where little *Sabren* resolutely died,
Sabren for euer shall this same be call'd.

And as for *Locrine*, our deceased spouse,
 Because he was the sonne of mightie *Brute*,

To whom we owe our country, liues and
 goods, 250

He shall be buried in a stately tombe,
 Close by his aged father *Brutus* bones,

With such great pomp and great solemnitie,
 As well be seemes so braue a prince as he.

Let *Estrild* lie without the shallow vaults, 255

186 By violently R 191 Titius . . Caucasus M
 201 no words S 204 You . . which] Ye . . who S
 even-tide M

220 com'st . . sheer'st M 232 thinst Q 236
 mastiff M, etc. 241 This present Ff, etc. 242 on
 add. R 247 same] stream conj. S 255 vaults Q

Without the honour due vnto the dead,
Because she was the author of this warre.
Retire, braue followers, vnto *Troynouant*,
Where we will celebrate these exequies, 259
And place yoong *Locrine* in his fathers tombe.
[*Exeunt omnes.*]

(*Enter Ate.*)

Ate. Lo here the end of lawlesse trecherie,
Of vsurpation and ambitious pride;
And they that for their priuate amours dare

260 yoong] your *conj.* *S:* king *Molt.* *S. D. add. M*

Turmoile our land, and set their broiles
abroach,
Let them be warned by these premisses. 265
And as a woman was the onely cause
That ciuill discord was then stirred vp,
So let vs pray for that renowned mayd,
That eight and thirtie yeares the scepter swayd,
In quiet peace and sweet felicitie; 270
And euery wight that seekes her graces smart,
Wold that this sword wer pierced in his hart!
[*Exit.*]

FINIS.

264 see *Q*

THE
RAIGNE OF
KING EDVVARD
the third:

*As it hath bin sundrie times plaied about
the Citie of London.*



LONDON,
Printed for Cuthbert Burby.
1596.

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THE RAIGNE OF K. EDWARD THE THIRD

(PERSONS REPRESENTED.

Edward the third, *King of England.*

Edward, *Prince of Wales, his Son.*

Earl of Warwick.

Earl of Derby.

Earl of Salisbury.

Lord Audley.

Lord Percy.

Lodowick, *Edward's Confident.*

Sir William Mountague.

Sir John Copland.

Two Esquires, and a Herald, *English.*

Robert, *stiling himself Earl, of Artois.*

Earl of Montfort, and

Gobin de Grey.

John, *King of France.*

Charles, and Philip, *his Sons.*

Duke of Lorrain.

Villiers, *a French Lord.*

King of Bohemia and }

A Polish Captain }

Six² Citizens of Calais.

A Captain, and

A poor Inhabitant, of the same.

Another Captain.

A Mariner.

Three Heralds; and

Four other Frenchmen.

David, *King of Scotland.*

Earl Douglas; and

Two Messengers, Scotch.

Philippa, *Edward's Queen.*

Countess of Salisbury.

A French Woman.

Lords, and divers other Attendants; Heralds, Officers, Soldiers, &c.

Scene, dispers'd; in England, Flanders, and France.)¹

(ACT I.

SCENE I.

London. A Room of State in the Palace.

Flourish.)

Enter King Edward, Derby, Prince Edward, Audely, and Artoys.

King. Robert of Artoys, banisht though thou be

From Fraunce, thy native Country, yet with vs Thou shalt retayne as great a Seignorie:

For we create thee Earle of Richmond heere.

And now goe forwards with our pedegree: 5

Who next succeeded Phillip le Bew?

Ar. Three sonnes of his, which all successefully

Did sit vpon their fathers regall Throne,

Yet dyed, and left no issue of their loynes. 9

King. But was my mother sister vnto those?

Art. Shee was, my Lord; and onely Issabel

Was all the daughters that this Phillip had,

Whome afterward your father tooke to wife;

And from the fragrant garden of her wombe

Your gracious selfe, the flower of Europes

hope,

Deriued is inheritor to Fraunce. 15

But note the rancor of rebellious mindes:

When thus the lynage of (le) Bew was out,
The French obscurd your mothers Priuiledge,
And, though she were the next of blood, pro-
claymed 20

Iohn, of the house of Valoys, now their king:
The reason was, they say, the Realme of
Fraunce,

Repleat with Princes of great parentage,

Ought not admit a gouernor to rule,

Except he be discended of the male; 25

And thats the speiall ground of their con-
tempt,

Wherewith they study to exclude your grace:

But they shall finde that forged ground of theirs

To be but dusty heapes of brittle sande. 29

Perhaps it will be thought a heynous thing,

That I, a French man, should discouer this;

But heauen I call to recorde of my vowes:

It is not hate nor any priuat wronge,

But loue vnto my country and the right,

Prouokes my tongue, thus lauish in report. 35

You are the lyneal watchman of our peace,

And Iohn of Valoys indirectly climbs:

What then should subiects but imbrace their

King?

Ah, where in may our duety more be seene,

Then stryuing to rebate a tyrants pride 40

¹ Add, C ² Two C Act I. etc. add, C 6 le
C: of Q₁ 7 successively C 17 note Q₂: not Q₁ I

18 of Bew Q_q: of le beau C 30 Art (Ital.)
Perhaps Q₁: Perhaps Q₂, etc. 36 watchman C:
watch men Q_q 39 Ah] And conj. C

And place the true shepheard of our comon-wealth?

King. This counsayle, Artoyes, like to fruitfull shewers,

Hath added growth vnto my dignitie;
And, by the fiery vigor of thy words,
Hot courage is engendred in my brest, 45
Which heretofore was rakt in ignorance,
But nowe doth mount with golden winges of fame,

And will approue faire Issabells discent,
Able to yोक their stubburne necks with steele,
That spurne against my souereignty in France. [sound a horne.

A messenger?—Lord Awdley, know from whence. 51

(*Exit Audley, and returns.*)

Aud. The Duke of Lorryayne, hauing crost the seas,
Intreates he may haue conference with your highnes.

King. Admit him, Lords, that we may heare the newes.

(*Exeunt Lords. King takes his State. Re-enter Lords; with Lorrain, attended.*)

Say, Duke of Lorryayne, wherefore art thou come? 55

Lor. The most renowned prince, K(ing) Iohn of France,

Doth greete thee, Edward, and by me comandes,

That, for so much as by his liberall gift
The Guyen Dukedome is entayld to thee,
Thou do him lowly homage for the same. 60
And, for that purpose, here I somon thee,
Repaire to France within these forty daies,
That there, according as the custome is,
Thou mayst be sworne true liegeman to our King;

Or else thy title in that prouince dyes, 65
And hee him self will repossesse the place.

K. Ed. See, how occasion laughes me in the face!

No sooner minded to prepare for France,
But straight I am inuited,—nay, with threats,
Vpon a penaltie, inioynd to come: 70

Twere but a childish part to say him nay.—
Lorryayne, returne this answer to thy Lord:
I meane to visit him as he requests;
But how? not seruilously disposd to bend,
But like a conqueror to make him bowe. 75
His lame vnpolisht shifts are come to light;

And trueth hath puld the visard from his face,
That sett a glosse vpon his arrogannce.

Dare he commaund a fealty in mee?

Tell him, the Crowne that hee vsurpes, is myne, 80

And where he sets his foote, he ought to knele.

Tis not a petty Dukedome that I claime,
But all the whole Dominions of the Realme;
Which if with grudging he refuse to yeld,
He take away those borrowed plumes of his, 85
And send him naked to the wildernes.

Lor. Then, Edward, here, in spight of all thy Lords,

I doe pronounce defyaunce to thy face.

Pri. Defiance, French man? we rebound it backe,

Euen to the bottom of thy masters throat. 90

And, be it spoke with reuerence of the King,
My gracious father, and these other Lordes,
I hold thy message but as scurrylous,
And him that sent thee, like the lazy droane,
Crept vp by stelh vnto the Eagles nest; 95

From whence wele shake him with so rough a storme,

As others shalbe warned by his harme.

War. Byd him leaue of the Lyons case he weares,

Least, meeting with the Lyon in the feeld,
He chaunce to teare him peecemeale for his pride. 100

Art. The soundest counsell I can giue his grace,

Is to surrender ere he be constraynd.

A voluntarie mischiefe hath lesse scorne,
Then when reproch with violence is borne. 104

Lor. Degenerate Traytor, viper to the place
Where thou was fostred in thine infancy,
Bearest thou a part in this conspiracy?

[*He drawes his Sword.*

K. Ed. Lorraine, behold the sharpnes of this steele: (*Drawing his.*)

Feruent desire that sits against my heart, 109
Is farre more thornie pricking than this blade;

That, with the nightingale, I shall be scared,
As oft as I dispose my selfe to rest,

Vntill my collours be displaide in Fraunce:
This is thy finall Answer; so be gone. 114

Lor. It is not that, nor any English braue,
Afflicts me so, as doth his poisoned view,
That is most false, should most of all be true.

(*Exeunt Lorrain, and Train.*)

K. Ed. Now, Lord, our fleeting Barke is vnder sayle;

S. D. Exit etc. *C:* Enter a messenger Lorraine *Qq*
54 *S. D.* add. *C* 64 our] the *Q2* 71 childish]
foolish *Q2*

78 glasse *Q1* 87 spight] sight *conj. C* 105
Degenerate *T:* Regenerate *Qq* 106 wast *Q2*
108 *S. D.* add. *D* 117 *S. D.* add. *C* 118 lords *C*

Our gage is throwne, and warre is soone
begun,
But not so quickly brought vnto an end. 120

Enter Mountague.

But wherefore comes Sir william Mountague?
How stands the league betweene the Scot and
vs?

Mo. Crackt and disseuered, my renowned
Lord.

The treacherous King no sooner was informde
Of your with drawing of your army backe, 125
But straight, forgetting of his former othe,
He made inuasion on the bordering Townes:
Warwicke is woon, Newcastle spoyld and lost,
And now the tyrant hath beguirt with seege
The Castle of Rocksborough, where inclosed 130
The Countes Salisbury is like to perish.

King. That is thy daughter, Warwicke, is it
not?

Whose husband hath in Brittainy serud so
long

About the planting of Lord Mouneford there?

War. It is, my Lord. 135

Ki. Ignoble Daudi! hast thou none to
greeue

But silly Ladies with thy threatning armes?

But I will make you shrinke your snaille
hornes!

First, therefore, Audley, this shalbe thy charge,
Go leuie footemen for our warres in Fraunce;
And, Ned, take muster of our men at armes:
In euery shire elect a seuerall band.

Let them be Souldiers of a lustie spirite,
Such as dread nothing but dishonors blot;

Be warie, therefore, since we do comence 145
A famous Warre, and with so mighty a nation.

Derby, be thou Embassador for vs

Vnto our Father in Law, the Earle of Henalt:

Make him acquainted with our enterprise,

And likewise will him, with our owne allies 150

That are in Flaunders, to sollicite to

The Emperour of Almaine in our name.

My selfe, whilst you are ioyntly thus employd,

Will, with these forces that I haue at hand,

March, and once more repulse the trayterous
Scot. 155

But, Sirs, be resolute; we shal haue warres

On euery side; and, Ned, thou must begin

Now to forget thy study and thy bookes,

And vre thy shoulders to an Armors weight.

Pr. As cheereful sounding to my youthfull
spleene 160

This tumult is of warres increasing broyles,

As, at the Coronation of a king,

121 *Preceded by prefix Moun.* Q 1 125 our armie

Q 2 146 mighty nation C 155 Scots C

The ioyfull clamours of the people are,
When *Aue, Cæsar!* they pronounce aloud.
Within this schoole of honor I shal learne 165
Either to sacrifice my foes to death,
Or in a rightfull quarrel spend my breath.
Then cheerefully forward, ech a seuerall way;
In great affaires tis nought to vse delay.

[*Ex(e)unt.*]

(SCENE II.

Roxborough. *Before the Castle.*)

Enter the Countesse.

(*Countesse.*) Alas, how much in vaine my
poore eyes gaze

For soucours that my soueraigne should send!

Ah, cosin Mountague, I feare thou wants

The liuely spirit, sharply to solicit

With vehement sute the king in my behalfe: 5

Thou dost not tell him, what a grieft it is

To be the scornfull captiue to a Scot,

Either to be wooed with broad vtuned othes,

Or forst by rough insulting barbarisme:

Thou doest not tell him, if he heere preuaile, 10

How much they will deride vs in the North,

And, in their vild, vnseuill, skipping giggs,

Bray forth their Conquest and our ouerthrow

Euen in the barraine, bleake, and fruitlesse
aire.

Enter Daudi and Douglas, Lorraine.

I must withdraw, the euerlasting foe 15

Comes to the wall; Ile closely step aside,

And list their babbles, blunt and full of pride.

K. Da. My Lord of Lorraine, to our brother
of Fraunce

Commend vs, as the man in Christendome

That we most reuerence and intirely loue. 20

Touching your embassage, returne and say,

That we with England will not enter parlie,

Nor neuer make faire wether, or take truce;

But burne their neighbor townes, and so per-
sist

With eager Rods beyond their Citie Yorke. 25

And neuer shall our bonny riders rest,

Nor rusting canker haue the time to eate

Their light borne snaffles nor their nimble
spurres,

Nor lay aside their Iacks of Gymould mayle,

Nor hang their stauas of grayned Scottish ash

In peacefull wise vpon their Citie wals, 31

Nor from their buttoned tawny leatherne belts

Dismishe their byting whinyards, till your
King

Scene II. *etc. add. C* 1 No prefix Q 1 3 Ah]

A Q 1 want'st Q 2 17 rabble Q 2 20 must Q 1

25 roads C 27 rusting C: rust in Qq 28 spurre

Q 1 (B.M. copy. The Bodl. copy has only spu)

Cry out: *Enough, spare England now for pittie!*

Farewell, and tell him that you leaue vs heare Before this Castle; say, you came from vs, 36 Euen when we had that yelded to our hands.

Lor. I take my leaue, and fayrely will returne

Your acceptable greeting to my king. [*Exit Lor.*

K. D. Now, Duglas, to our former taske again, 40

For the deuision of this certayne spoyle.

Dou. My liege, I craue the Ladie, and no more.

King. Nay, soft ye, sir; first I must make my choyse,

And first I do bespeake her for my selfe.

Du. Why then, my liege, let me enioy her iewels. 45

King. Those are her owne, still liable to her,

And who inherits her, hath those with all.

Enter a Scot in hast.

Mes. My liege, as we were pricking on the hils,

To fetch in booty, marching hitherward, We might discry a mighty host of men; 50

The Sunne, reflecting on the armour, shewed A field of plate, a wood of pickes aduanced.

Bethinke your highnes speedely herein: An easie march within foure howres will bring

The hindmost rancke vnto this place, my liege. 55

King. Dislodge, dislodge! it is the king of England.

Dug. Iemmy, my man, saddle my bonny blacke.

King. Meanst thou to fight, Duglas? we are to weake.

Du. I know it well, my liege, and therefore flie.

Cou. My Lords of Scotland, will ye stay and drinke? 60

King. She mocks at vs, Duglas; I cannot endure it.

Count. Say, good my Lord, which is he must haue the Ladie,

And which her iewels? I am sure, my Lords, Ye will not hence, till you haue shard the spoyles.

King. Shee heard the messenger, and heard our talke; 65

And now that comfort makes her scorne at vs.

38 I om. Q 1 43 ye om. Q 2 45 Prefix Da. Q 1
52 pikes Q 2, etc. 59 flee Q 2 62 good om. C

Another messenger.

Mes. Arme, my good Lord! O, we are all surprisdel

(*Coun.*) After the French ambassador, my liege,

And tell him, that you dare not ride to Yorke; Excuse it that your bonnie horse is lame. 70

K. She heard that to; intollerable griefe!

Woman, farewell! Although I do not stay . . . [*Ex(e)unt Scots.*

Count. Tis not for feare, and yet you run away.—

O happie comfort, welcome to our house! The confident and boystrous boasting Scot, 75

That swore before my walls they would not backe

For all the armed power of this land, With facelesse feare that euer turnes his backe,

Turnd hence against the blasting North-east winde

Vpon the bare report and name of Armes. 80

Enter Mountague.

O Sommers day! See where my Cosin comes!

Mo. How fares my Aunt? We are not Scots; Why do you shut your gates against your friends?

Co. Well may I giue a welcome, Cosin, to thee,

For thou comst well to chase my foes from hence. 85

Mo. The king himselfe is come in person hither;

Deare Aunt, descend, and gratulate his highnes.

Co. How may I entertayne his Maiestie, To shew my duety and his dignitie?

(*Exit, from above.*)

Enter king Edward, Warwike, Artoyes, with others.

K. Ed. What, are the stealing Foxes fled and gone, 90

Before we could vncupple at their heeles?

War. They are, my liege; but, with a cheereful cry,

Hot hounds and hardie chase them at the heeles.

Enter Countesse.

K. Ed. This is the Countesse, Warwike, is it not?

War. Euen shee, my liege; whose beauty tyrants feare, 95

68 Prefix om. Qq 71 She C: He Qq 76 they]

he conj. C 79 against conj. C: againe Qq 80

names Q 2 82 Prefix precedes 81 Qq 82 we Qq:

Why, aunt, we C, etc. 89 S. D. add. C 93 hunds

Q 1 95 my om. Q 1 tyrant D

As a May blossome with pernitiuous winds,
Hath sullied, withered, ouercast, and donne.
K. Ed. Hath she been fairer, Warwike,
then she is?

War. My gracious King, faire is she not at
all,

If that her selfe were by to staine her selfe, 100
As I haue seene her when she was her selfe.

K. Ed. What strange enchantment lurkt
in those her eyes,

When they exceld this excellence they haue,
That now her dym declyne hath power to
draw

My subiect eyes from persing maiestie, 105
To gaze on her with doting admiration?

Count. In duetie lower then the ground I
kneele,

And for my dul knees bow my feeling heart,
To witnes my obedience to your highnes,
With many millions of a subjects thanks 110
For this your Royall presence, whose approch
Hath driuen war and danger from my gate.

K. Lady, stand vp; I come to bring thee
peace,

How euer thereby I haue purchast war.

Co. No war to you, my liege; the Scots
are gone, 115

And gallop home toward Scotland with their
hate.

(*King.*) Least, yeelding heere, I pyne in
shamefull loue,

Come, wole persue the Scots;—Artoyes, away!

Co. A little while, my gracious soueraigne,
stay,

And let the power of a mighty king 120
Honor our rooffe; my husband in the warres,
When he shall heere it, will triumph for ioy;
Then, deare my liege, now niggard not thy
state:

Being at the wall, enter our homely gate.

King. Pardon me, countesse, I will come
no neare; 125

I dreamde to night of treason, and I feare.

Co. Far from this place let vgly treason ly!

K. No farther off, then her conspyring eye,
Which shoots infected poyson in my heart,
Beyond repulse of wit or cure of Art. 130

Now, in the Sunne alone it doth not lye,
With light to take light from a mortall eye;
For here two day stars that myne eies would
see

More then the Sunne steales myne owne light
from mee.

Contemplatiue desire, desire to be 135
In contemplation, that may master thee!

102 lurke *Q 1* 104 her] their *conj. C* 116 hate]
haste *C* 117 *Prefix om. Q 1* 133 two] to *Q 1*

Warwike, Artoys, to horse and lets away!

Co. What might I speake to make my
soueraigne stay?

King. What needs a tongue to such a
speaking eie,

That more perswads then winning Oratorie?

Co. Let not thy presence, like the Aprill
sunne, 141

Flatter our earth and sodenly be done.

More happie do not make our outward wall
Then thou wilt grace our inner house withall.
Our house, my liege, is like a Country swaine,
Whose habit rude and manners blunt and
playne 146

Presageth nought, yet inly beautified
With bounties, riches and faire hidden pride.

For where the golden Ore doth buried lie,
The ground, vndect with natures tapestrie, 150

Seemes barrayne, sere, vnfertill, fructles, dry;
And where the vpper turfe of earth doth boast

His pide perfumes and party colourled cost,
Delue there, and find this issue and their pride

To spring from ordure and corruptions side. 155
But, to make vp my all to long compare,

These ragged walles no testimonie are,
What is within; but, like a cloake, doth hide

From weathers Waste the vnder garnisht pride.
More gracious then my tearmes can let thee
be, 160

Intreat thy selfe to stay a while with mee.

Kin. As wise, as faire; what fond fit can
be heard,

When wisdome keepes the gate as beuties
gard?—

Countesse, albeit my busines vrgeth me,
Yt shall attend, while I attend on thee: 165

Come on, my Lords; heere will I host to night.

[*Exeunt.*]

(ACT II.

SCENE I.

The Same. Gardens of the Castle.

(*Enter Lodowick.*)

Lod. I might perceiue his eye in her eye
lost,

His eare to drinke her sweet tongues vtterance,
And changing passion, like inconstant clouds

That racke vpon the carriage of the windes,
Increase and die in his disturbed cheekes. 5

Loe, when shee blusht, euen then did he looke
pale,

As if her cheekes by some inchaunted power

153 pide *conj. C*: pride *Qq*: proud *C* presumes
Q 2 157 testomie *Q 1* 159 waste *D*: West *Qq*
Act II. etc. add. *C* 1 *Prefix Lor. Q 1* 4 rackt
Q 2, etc.

Attracted had the cherie blood from his:
Anone, with reuerent feare when she grew pale,

His cheekes put on their scarlet ornaments; 10
But no more like her oryental red,
Then Bricke to Corral or liue things to dead.
Why did he then thus counterfeit her lookes?
If she did blush, twas tender modest shame,
Being in the sacred presence of a King; 15
If he did blush, twas red immodest shame,
To vaile his eyes amisse, being a king:
If she lookt pale, twas silly womans feare,
To beare her selfe in presence of a king;
If he lookt pale, it was with guiltie feare, 20
To dote amisse, being a mighty king.
Then, Scottish warres, farewell; I feare twill
prooue

A lingring English seege of peeuish loue.
Here comes his highnes, walking all alone.

Enter King Edward.

King. Shee is growne more fairer far since
I came hither, 25
Her voice more siluer euery word then other,
Her wit more fluent. What astrange discourse
Vnfolded she of Dauid and his Scots!
'Euen thus', quoth she, 'he spake', and then
spoke broad,
With epithites and accents of the Scot, 30
But somewhat better then the Scot could
speake:
'And thus', quoth she, and answered then her
selfe—
For who could speake like her but she her
selfe—
Breathes from the wall an Angels note from
Heauen
Of sweete defiance to her barbarous foes. 35
When she would talke of peace, me thinkes,
her tong
Commanded war to prison; when of war,
It wakened Cæsar from his Romane graue,
To heare warre beautified by her discourse.
Wisedome is foolishnes but in her tongue, 40
Beauty a slander but in her faire face,
There is no summer but in her cheerefull
lookes,
Nor frosty winter but in her disdayne.
I cannot blame the Scots that did besiege her,
For she is all the Treasure of our land; 45
But call them cowards, that they ran away,
Hauing so rich and faire a cause to stay.—
Art thou there, Lodwicke? Giue me incke and
paper.

10 cheeke Qq 11 oryent all Q 1 15 present
Q 1 17 vaile C: waile Qq 25 thither Q 1 29
spoke] spake Q 2

Lo. I will, my liege.

K. And bid the Lords hold on their play at
Chesse, 50
For wee will walke and meditate alone.

Lo. I will, my soueraigne. (*Exit Lodowick.*)

Ki. This fellow is well read in poetrie,
And hath a lustie and perswasie spirite:
I will acquaint him with my passion, 55
Which he shall shadow with a vaile of lawne,
Through which the Queene of beauties Queene
shall see
Her selfe the ground of my infirmitie.

Enter Lodwike.

Ki. Hast thou pen, inke, and paper ready,
Lodowike?

Lo. Ready, my liege. 60

Ki. Then in the sommer arber sit by me,
Make it our counsel house or cabynet:
Since greene our thoughts, greene be the con-
uenticle,
Where we will ease vs by disburdning them.
Now, Lodwike, inuocate some golden Muse, 65
To bring thee hither an enchanted pen,
That may for sighes set downe true sighes
indeed,

Talking of griefe, to make thee ready grone;
And when thou writest of teares, encouch the
word

Before and after with such sweete laments, 70
That it may rayse drops in a Tarters eye,
And make a flyheart Sythian pytifull;
For so much mooouing hath a Poets pen:
Then, if thou be a Poet, moue thou so,
And be enriched by thy soueraignes loue. 75
For, if the touch of sweet concordant strings
Could force attendance in the eares of hel,
How much more shall the straines of poets wit
Beguile and rauish soft and humane myndes?

Lod. To whome, my Lord, shal I direct my
stile? 80

King. To one that shames the faire and
sots the wise;

Whose bodie is an abstract or a breefe,
Containes ech generall vertue in the worlde.
Better then bewtifull thou must begin,
Deiuse for faire a fairer word then faire, 85
And euery ornament that thou wouldest praise,
Fly it a pitch about the soare of praise.
For flattery feare thou not to be conuicted;
For, were thy admiration ten tymes more,
Ten tymes ten thousand more the worth
exceeds 90

49 soueraigne Q 2 52 liege Q 2 S. D. add. C
53 well on. Q 2 57 beauties Queenes WP 71
Torters Qq 75 soueraigne Q 1 78 straine Q 2
79 beguiled Q 1 80 Prefix Lor. Q 1 82 is] as C,
etc. 90 the] thy Q 1

Of that thou art to praise, thy praises worth.
 Beginne; I will to contemplat the while:
 Forget not to set downe, how passionat,
 How hart sicke, and how full of languishment,
 Her beautie makes mee.

Lod. Write I to a woman? 95

King. What bewtie els could triumph ouer
 me,

Or who but women doe our loue layes greet?
 What, thinkest thou I did bid thee praise a
 horse?

Lod. Of what condicion or estate she is,

Twere requisit that I should know, my Lord.

King. Of such estate, that hers is as a
 throane, 101

And my estate the footstoole where shee
 treads:

Then maist thou iudge what her condition is
 By the proportion of her mightines.

Write on, while I peruse her in my thoughts.—

Her voice to musicke or the nightingale—

To musicke euery sommer leaping swaine 107
 Compares his sunburnt louer when shee
 speakes;

And why should I speake of the nightingale?

The nightingale singes of adulterate wrong,

And that, compared, is to satyricall; 111

For sinne, though synne, would not be so
 esteemd,

Rather, vertue sin, synne vertue deemd.

Her hair, far softer then the silke wormes
 twist,

Like to a flattering glas, doth make more faire

The yelow Amber:—like a *flattering glas* 116

Comes in to soone; for, writing of her eies,

Ile say that like a glas they catch the sunne,

And thence the hot reflection doth rebounde

Against my brest, and burnes my hart within.

Ah, what a world of descant makes my soule

Vpon this voluntarie ground of loue!— 122

Come, Lodwick, hast thou turnd thy inke to
 golde?

If not, write but in letters Capitall

My mistres name, and it wil guild thy paper:

Read, Lorde, read; 126

Fill thou the emptie hollowes of mine eares

With the sweete hearing of thy poetrie.

Lo. I haue not to a period brought her
 praise.

King. Her praise is as my loue, both infinit,

Which apprehend such violent extremes, 131

That they disdaine an ending period.

91 thy *C:* their *Qq* *95* *Prefix* *Lor.* *Q1* Write

Q1 a *om.* *Q2* *96* ouer *Q2:* on *Q1* *99* *Prefix*

Lor. *Q1* *106* A *line* may haue been lost after *105*

111? that compare is *115* to] as *Q2* *124-6* *Two*

lines *Qq*, *div.* after name: *C* ends capital, name, read

Her bewtie hath no match but my affection;
 Hers more then most, myne most and more
 then more:

Hers more to praise then tell the sea by drops,
 Nay, more then drop the massie earth by
 sands, 136

And sand by sand print them in memorie:

Then wherefore talkest thou of a period

To that which craues vnended admiration?

Read, let vs heare. 140

Lo. 'More faire and chast then is the queen
 of shades,'—

King. That line hath two falts, grosse and
 palpable:

Comparest thou her to the pale queene of
 night,

Who, being set in darke, seemes therefore
 light? 144

What is she, when the sunne lifts vp his head,

But like a fading taper, dym and dead?

My loue shall braue the ey of heauen at noon,

And, being vnmaskt, outshine the golden sun.

Lo. What is the other faulte, my soueraigne
 Lord?

King. Reade ore the line againe.

Lo. 'More faire and chast'— 150

King. I did not bid thee talke of chastitie,

To ransack so the treasure of her minde;

For I had rather haue her chased then chast.

Out with the moone line, I wil none of it;

And let me haue hir likened to the sun: 155

Say shee hath thrice more splendour then the
 sun,

That her perfections emulats the sunne,

That shee breeds sweets as plenteous as the
 sunne,

That shee doth thaw cold winter like the
 sunne,

That she doth cheere fresh sommer like the
 sunne, 160

That shee doth dazle gazers like the sunne;

And, in this application to the sunne,

Bid her be free and generall as the sunne,

Who smiles vpon the basest weed that growes

As louinglie as on the fragrant rose. 165

Lets see what followes that same moonelight
 line.

Lo. 'More faire and chast then is the queen
 of shades,

More bould in constancie'—

King. In constancie! then who?

Lo. 'Then Iudith was.'

King. O monstrous line! Put in the next
 a sword, 170

137 And said, by said *Qq:* *corr.* *C* *142* line] loue

Q1 *152* treasure *C:* treason *Qq* *167* queen

C: louer *Qq*

And I shall woo her to cut of my head.
Blot, blot, good Lodwick! Let vs heare the next.

Lo. Theres all that yet is donne.

King. I thanke thee then; thou hast don litle ill,

But what is don, is passing, passing ill. 175

No, let the Captaine talke of boystrous warr,
The prisoner of emured darke constraint,
The sick man best sets downe the pangs of death,

The man that starues the sweetnes of a feast,

The frozen soule the benefite of fire, 180

And every grieve his happie opposite:

Loue cannot sound well but in louers touns;
Giue me the pen and paper, I will write.

Enter Countes.

But soft, here comes the treasurer of my spirit.—

Lodwick, thou knowst not how to drawe a battell; 185

These wings, these flankars, and these squadrons

Argue in thee defectiue discipline:

Thou shouldest haue placed this here, this other here.

Co. Pardon my boldnes, my thrice gracious Lords;

Let my intrusion here be cald my duetie, 190
That comes to see my soueraigne how he fares.

Kin. Go, draw the same, I tell thee in what forme.

Lod. I go. (*Exit Lodowick.*)

Cou. Sorry I am to see my liege so sad:

What may thy subiect do to drie from thee 195
Thy gloomy consort, sullome melancholie?

King. Ah, Lady, I am blunt and cannot strawe

The flowers of solace in a ground of shame:—
Since I came hither, Countes, I am wronged.

Cont. Now God forbid that anie in my howse 200

Should thinck my soueraigne wrong! Thrice gentle King,

Accuint me with your cause of discontent.

King. How neere then shall I be to remedie?

Cont. As nere, my Liege, as all my womans power

Can pawne it selfe to buy thy remedy. 205

King. Yf thou speakst true, then haue I my redresse:

Engage thy power to redeeme my Ioyes,
And I am ioyfull, Countes; els I die.

Coun. I will, my Liege.

King. Sweare, Counties, that thou wilt.

Coun. By heauen, I will. 210

King. Then take thy selfe a litel waie a side,

And tell thy self, a King doth dote on thee:
Say that within thy power (it) doth lie

To make him happy, and that thou hast sworne

To giue him all the Ioy within thy power: 215
Do this, and tell me when I shall be happie.

Coun. All this is done, my thrice dread souereigne:

That power of loue, that I haue power to giue,
Thou hast with all deuout obedience;

Employ me how thou wilt in profe therof. 220
King. Thou hearst me saye that I do dote on thee.

Coun. Yf on my beauty, take yt if thou canst;

Though litle, I do prise it ten tymes lesse:
If on my vertue, take it if thou canst,

For vertues store by giuing doth augment: 225
Be it on what it will, that I can giue

And thou canst take awaie, inherit it.
King. It is thy beautie that I woulde enioy.

Coun. O, were it painted, I would wipe it of

And dispossesse my selfe, to giue it thee. 230
But, souereigne, it is souldered to my life:

Take one and both; for, like an humble shaddow,

Yt hauntes the sunshine of my summers life.
(*King.*) But thou maist lend it me to sport with all.

Coun. As easie may my intellectual soule

Be lent awaie, and yet my bodie liue, 236
As lend my bodie, pallace to my soule,

Awaie from her, and yet retaine my soule.
My bodie is her bower, her Court, her abey,

And shee an Angell, pure, deuine, vnspotted:
If I should leaue her house, my Lord, to thee,

I kill my poore soule and my poore soule me.
King. Didst thou not swere to giue me what I woulde?

Coun. I did, my liege, so what you woulde I could.

King. I wish no more of thee then thou maist giue:— 245

177 inhuired C 184 treasure Q 2 186 squadrons here C 189 lord C 193 Prefix Lor. Q 1
S. D. add. C 196 Thy] This Q 2 202 your] theyr Q 1
203 Prefix King precedes 202 in Q 1

213 it add. C 214 that om. Q 2 215 him] me C
228 beaue Q 1 230 dispoose Q 1 234 Prefix add.
Q 2 lend Q 2: leue Q 1 241 leaue Q 1: lend Q 2

Nor beg I do not, but I rather buie—
That is, thy loue; and for that loue of thine
In rich exchange I tender to thee myne.

Count. But that your lippes were sacred, my
Lord,

You would prophane the holie name of loue. 250
That loue you offer me you cannot giue,
For Cæsar owes that tribut to his Queene;
That loue you beg of me I cannot giue,
For Sara owes that duetie to her Lord. 254
He that doth clip or counterfeit your stamp
Shall die, my Lord; and will your sacred selfe
Comit high treason against the King of heauen,
To stamp his Image in forbidden mettel,
Forgetting your allegiance and your othe?
In violating mariage sacred law, 260
You breake a greater honor then your selfe:
To be a King is of a yonger house
Then to be married; your progenitour,
Sole raigning Adam on the vniuerse,
By God was honored for a married man, 265
But not by him annointed for a king.
It is a pennalty to breake your statutes,
Though not enacted with your highnes hand:
How much more, to infringe the holy act,
Made by the mouth of God, seald with his
hand? 270

I know, my souereigne, in my husbands loue,
Who now doth loyall seruice in his warres,
Doth but so try the wife of Salisbury,
Whither shee will heare a wantons tale or no,
Lest being therein giulty by my stay, 275
From that, not from my leige, I tourne awaie.

[*Exit.*]

King. Whether is her bewtie by her words
dyuine,
Or are her words sweet chaplaines to her
bewtie?

Like as the wind doth beautifie a saile,
And as a saile becomes the vnseene winde, 280
So doe her words her bewties, bewties wordes.
O, that I were a honie gathering bee,
To beare the combe of vertue from this flower,
And not a poison sucking enuious spider,
To turne the iuce I take to deadlie venom! 285
Religion is austere and bewty gentle;
To strict a gardion for so faire a ward!
O, that shee were, as is the aire, to mee!
Why, so she is, for when I would embrace
her,

This do I, and catch nothing but my selfe. 290
I must enioy her; for I cannot beate
With reason and reproofe fond loue a waie.

249 my] O my C 200 secred Q 1 268 with] by C
273 so pr. ed.: to Qq, etc. 281 bewties, bewtie
Q 1: beauty, beauty C 283 this C: his Qq 285
ince Col.: vice Qq, C 287 Too strict Q 2: To
stricke Q 1 ward C: weed Qq

Enter Warwicke.

Here comes her father: I will worke with him,
To beare my collours in this feild of loue.

War. How is it that my souereigne is so
sad? 295

May I with pardon know your highnes grieve;
And that my old endeour will remoue it,
It shall not comber long your maiestie.

King. A kind and voluntary gift thou pro-
ferest,

That I was forwarde to haue begd of thee. 300
But, O thou world, great nurse of flatterie,
Whie dost thou tip mens tongues with golden
words,

And peise their deedes with weight of heauie
leade,

That faire performance cannot follow promise?
O, that a man might hold the hartes close
booke 305

And choke the lauish tongue, when it doth vtter
The breath of falshood not caretred there!

War. Far be it from the honor of my age,
That I should owe bright gould and render
lead;

Age is a cynicke, not a flatterer. 310

I saye againe, that if I knew your grieve,
And that by me it may be lesned,
My proper harme should buy your highnes
good.

Kin. These are the vulger tenders of false
men,

That neuer pay the duetie of their words. 315
Thou wilt not sticke to sweare what thou hast
said;

But, when thou knowest my greifes condition,
This rash disgorged vomit of thy word
Thou wilt eate vp againe, and leaue me helpees.

War. By heauen, I will not, though your
maiestie 320

Did byd me run vpon your sworde and die.

(*Kin.*) Say that my greefe is no way medi-
cinable

But by the losse and bruising of thine honour.

War. Yf nothing but that losse may van-
tage you,

I would accompt that losse my vauntage to. 325

King. Thinkst that thou canst unsweare
thy oth againe?

War. I cannot; nor I would not, if I
could.

King. But, if thou dost, what shal I say to
thee?

299 offerst Q 2 310 cyncke Q 1 311 if I] I if
Q 1 314 Prefix Kin. precedes 316 Qq 322 Prefix
on. Q 1 325 account Q 2: accomplish Q 1 326 un-
swere WP: unsweare C: answer Qq

War. What may be said to anie periurd villane, 329

That breake(s) the sacred warrant of an oath.

King. What wilt thou say to one that breaks an othe?

War. That hee hath broke his faith with God and man,

And from them both standes excommunicat.

King. What office were it, to suggest a man To breake a lawful and religious vowe? 335

War. An office for the deuill, not for man.

Ki. That deuilles office must thou do for me,

Or breake thy oth, or cancell all the bondes Of loue and duetie twixt thy self and mee; 339

And therefore, Warwike, if thou art thy selfe, The Lord and master of thy word and othe,

Go to thy daughter; and in my behalfe Comaund her, woo her, win her anie waies,

To be my mistres and my secret loue.

I will not stand to heare thee make reply: 345

Thy oth breake hers, or let thy souereigne dye.

[Exit.

War. O doting King! O detestable officel Well may I tempt my self to wrong my self,

When he hath sworne me by the name of God To breake a vowe made by the name of God.

What, if I sweare by this right hand of mine To cut this right hande of? The better waie

Were to prophaine the Idoll then confound it: But neither will I do; Ile keepe myne oath,

And to my daughter make a recantation 355 Of all the vertue I haue preacht to her:

Ile say, she must forget her husband Salisbury, If she remember to embrace the king;

Ile say, an othe may easily be broken, But not so easily pardoned, being broken; 360

Ile say, it is true charitie to loue, But not true loue to be so charitable;

Ile say, his greatnes may beare out the shame, But not his kingdome can buy out the sinne;

Ile say, it is my duety to perswade, 365 But not her honestie to giue consent.

Enter Countesse.

See where she comes; was neuer father had Against his child an embassage so bad!

Co. My Lord and father, I haue sought for you:

My mother and the Peeres importune you 370 To keepe in presence of his maiestie,

And do your best to make his highnes merrie.

War. (Aside.) How shall I enter in this gracelesse arrant?

330 breaks Q 2: breake Q 1 338 and cancell WP 347 Prefix War. Q 2: King Q 1 King, or Qq 371 presence Q 2: promise Q 1 373 S. D. add. WP

I must not call her child, for wheres the father That will in such a sute seduce his child? 375 Then, 'wife of Salisbury'; shall I so begin?

No, hees my friend, and where is found the friend

That will doe friendship such indammagement?

(To the Count.) Neither my daughter nor my deare friends wife,

I am not Warwike, as thou thinkst I am, 380 But an attorne from the Court of hell,

That thus haue housd my spirite in his forme, To do a message to thee from the king.

The mighty king of England dotes on thee:

He that hath power to take away thy life, 385 Hath power to take thy honor; then consent To pawne thine honor rather then thy life:

Honor is often lost and got againe, But life, once gon, hath no recouerie.

The Sunne, that withers hey, doth nourish grasse; 390

The king, that would distaine thee, will aduance thee.

The Poets write that great Achilles speare Could heale the wound it made: the morrall is,

What mighty men misdoo, they can amend. The Lyon doth become his bloody iawes, 395

And grace his forragement by being milde, When vassell feare lies trembling at his feete.

The king will in his glory hide thy shame; And those that gaze on him to finde out thee,

Will loose their eie-sight, looking in the Sunne. What can one drop of poyson harme the Sea,

Whose hugie vastures can digest the ill And make it loose his operation?

The kings great name will temper thy misdeeds, And giue the bitter potion of reproch 405

A sugred, sweet and most delitious tast. Besides, it is no harme to do the thing

Which without shame could not be left vndone.

Thus haue I in his maiesties behalfe Apparaed sin in vertuous sentences, 410

And dwell vpon thy answer in his sute.

Cou. Vnnaturall beseege! woe me vnhappye, To haue escapt the danger of my foes,

And to be ten times worse inuiued by friends! Hath he no meanes to stayne my honest blood,

But to corrupt the author of my blood 416 To be his scandalous and vile soliciter?

No maruell though the braunches be then infected,

When poyson hath encompassed the roote: No maruell though the leprous infant dye, 420

379 S. D. add. WP 390 doth] goth Q 1 404 thy C: their Qq 405 portion Q 1 414 iniured WP: inwird D

When the sterne dame inuennometh the Dug.
 Why then, giue sinne a pasport to offend,
 And youth the dangerous reigne of liberty:
 Blot out the strict forbidding of the law,
 And cancell euery cannon that prescribes 425
 A shame for shame or pennance for offence.
 No, let me die, if his too boystrous will
 Will haue it so, before I will consent
 To be an actor in his gracelesse lust.

Wa. Why, now thou speakst as I would
 haue thee speake: 430

And marke how I vnsaie my words againe.
 An honorable graue is more esteemd
 Then the polluted closet of a king:
 The greater man, the greater is the thing,
 Be it good or bad, that he shall vndertake: 435
 An vnreputed mote, flying in the Sunne,
 Presents a greater substaunce then it is:
 The freshest summers day doth soonest taint
 The lothed carrion that it seemes to kisse:
 Deepe are the blowes made with a mightie

Axe: 440
 That sinne doth ten times agreuate it selfe,
 That is committed in a holie place:

An euill deed, done by authoritie,
 Is sin and subornation: Decke an Ape
 In tissue, and the beautie of the robe 445
 Adds but the greater scorne vnto the beast.

A spatious field of reasons could I vrge
 Betweene his glorie, daughter, and thy shame:
 That poyson shewes worst in a golden cup;
 Darke night seemes darker by the lightning
 flash; 450

Lillies that fester smel far worse then weeds;
 And euery glory that inclynes to sin,
 The shame is treble by the opposite.
 So leaue I with my blessing in thy bosome,
 Which then conuert to a most heauie curse, 455
 When thou conuertest from honors golden
 name

To the blacke faction of bed blotting shame.

Coun. Ile follow thee; and when my minde
 turnes so,

My body sinke my soule in endles woo!
 [Exeunt.]

(SCENE II.

The Same. A Room in the Castle.)

*Enter at one doore Derby from Fraunce, At an
 other doore Audley with a Drum.*

Der. Thrice noble Audley, well incountred
 heere!

How is it with our soueraigne and his peeres?
 And. Tis full a fortnight, since I saw his
 highnes,

448 glory C: gloomie Q 1 458 IIs Q 1 Scene II.
 etc. add. C

What time he sent me forth to muster men;
 Which I accordingly haue done, and bring
 them hither 5

In faire aray before his maiestie.

What newes, my Lord of Derby, from the
 Emperour?

Der. As good as we desire: the Emperour
 Hath yeeled to his highnes friendly ayd,
 And makes our king leiutenant generall 10
 In all his lands and large dominions:

Then via for the spatious bounds of Fraunce!

Aud. What, doth his highnes leap to heare
 these newes?

Der. I haue not yet found time to open them;
 The king is in his closet, malcontent; 15

For what, I know not, but he gaue in charge,
 Till after dinner none should interrupt him:

The Countesse Salisbury and her father War-
 wike,

Artoyes and all looke vnderneath the browes.

Aud. Vndoubtedly, then, some thing is
 a misse. (Trumpet within.)

Dar. The Trumpets sound, the king is now
 abroad. 21

Enter the King.

Aud. Here comes his highnes.

Der. Befall my soueraigne all my soue-
 raignes wish!

King. Ah, that thou wert a Witch to make
 it so!

Der. The Emperour greeteth you. 25
presenting Letters.)

Kin. —Would it were the Countesse!

Der. And hath accorded to your highnes
 suite.

King. —Thou lyst, she hath not; but I
 would she had.

Au. All loue and duety to my Lord the
 King!

Kin. Well, all but one is none.—What
 newes with you? 30

Au. I haue, my liege, leuied those horse
 and foote

According to your charge, and brought them
 hither.

Kin. Then let those foote trudge hence
 vpon those horse

According too our discharge, and be gonne.—
 Darby, Ile looke vpon the Countesse minde
 anone. 35

Dar. The Countesse minde, my liege?

Kin. I meane the Emperour:—leaue me
 alone.

5 hither om. C 7 Prefix King before this line in
 Q 1 13 these] this Q 2 20, 25 S. DD. add. C
 21 S. D. follows 20 in Qq 22 Ar. (Ital.) Here Q 1
 32 to Q 2: as Q 1

Au. What is his mind?

Dar. Lets leaue him to his humor.
[*Ex' e unt.*]

Ki. Thus from the harts abundance
speakes the tongue;

Countesse for Emperour: and indeed, why
not? 40

She is as imperator ouer me

And I to her

Am as a kneeling vassaile, that obserues

The pleasure or displeasure of her eye.

Enter Lodwike.

Ki. What saies the more then Cleopatras
match 45

To Cæsar now?

Lo. That yet, my liege, ere night
She will resolute your maiestie. (*Drum within.*)

Ki. What drum is this that thunders forth
this march,

To start the tender Cupid in my bosome?

Poore shipskin, how it braules with him that
beateth it! 50

Go, break the thundring parchment bottome
out,

And I will teach it to conduct sweete lynes

Vnto the bosome of a heauenly Nymph;

For I will vse it as my writing paper,

And so reduce him from a scoulding drum 55

To be the herald and deare counsaile bearer

Betwixt a goddesse and a mighty king.

Go, bid the drummer learne to touch the Lute,

Or hang him in the braces of his drum,

For now we thinke it an vnciuill thing, 60

To trouble heauen with such harsh resounds:
Away! [*Exit.*]

The quarrell that I haue requires no armes

But these of myne: and these shall meete my
foe

In a deepe march of penytrable grones; 65

My eyes shall be my arrowes, and my sighes

Shall serue me as the vantage of the winde,

To wherle away my sweetest artyllerie.

Ah, but, alas, she winnes the sunne of me,

For that is she her selfe, and thence it comes 70

That Poets tearme the wanton warriour blinde;

But loue hath eyes as iudgement to his steps,

Till too much loued glory dazles them.—

Enter Lodwike.

How now?

Lo. My liege, the drum that stroke the
lusty march, 75

Stands with Prince Edward, your thrice valiant
sonne.

Enter Prince Edward.

King. I see the boy; oh, how his mothers
face,

Modeld in his, corrects my straid desire,
And rates my heart, and chides my theeuish
eie,

Who, being rich ennough in seeing her, 80
Yet seekes elsewhere: and basest theft is that
Which cannot cloke it selfe on pouertie.—

Now, boy, what newes?

Pr. E. I haue assembled, my deare Lord
and father,

The choysest buds of all our English blood 85
For our affaires in Fraunce; and heere we
come

To take direction from your maiestie.

Kin. Still do I see in him deliniate

His mothers visage; those his eies are hers,
Who, looking wistely on me, make me blush:
For faults against themselues giue euidence;
Lust is a fire, and men like lanthornes show
Light lust within them selues, euen through
them selues.

Away, loose silkes of wauering vanitie!

Shall the large limmit of faire Brittainé 95

By me be ouerthrowne, and shall I not

Master this little mansion of my selfe?

Giue me an Armor of eternall steele!

I go to conquer kings; and shall I not then

Subdue my selfe? and be my enemies friend?

It must not be.—Come, boy, forward, ad-
uaunce! 101

Lets with our coullours sweete the Aire of
Fraunce.

Enter Lodwike.

Lo. My liege, the Countesse with a smiling
cheere

Desires accesse vnto your Maiestie.

King. Why, there it goes! That verie smile
of hers 105

Hath ransomed captiue Fraunce, and set the
King,

The Dolphin, and the Peeres at liberty.—

Goe, leaue me, Ned, and reuell with thy friends.
[*Exit Pr.*]

Thy mother is but blacke, and thou, like her,
Dost put it in my minde how foule she is.— 110

Goe, fetch the Countesse hether in thy hand,
And let her chase away these winter clouds,

38 is Q 1: is in Q 2, etc. 39 abundance Col.:
abundant Qq 41, 42 One line in Qq 47 S. D. add.
C 56 counsaile Q 1 61 wrth Q 1 Line ends
Away Qq 73 too Q 2: two Q 1 S. D. after 74
Q 1

78 Molded Q 2 82 cloke] check C 86 in Q 2:
to Q 1 90 made Q 2 92 is C: as Qq men C:
me Qq lanthorne Qq 94 of Q 2: or Q 1 95
Britany Q 2 99 not om. C, etc. 102 sweep C:
beat D 112 those Q 2

For shee giues beautie both to heauen and
earth. [*Exit* Lod.]

The sin is more to hacke and hew poore men,
Then to embrace in an vnlawfull bed 115
The register of all rarieties

Since Letherne Adam till this youngest howre.

Enter Countesse (escorted by Lodwike).

King. Goe, Lodwike, put thy hand into my
purse,

Play, spend, giue, ryot, wast, do what thou
wilt,

So thou wilt hence awhile and leaue me heere.

(*Exit* Lodowick.)

Now, my soules plaiefellow, art thou come 121

To speake the more then heavenly word of
yea

To my obiection in thy beautious loue?

Count. My father on his blessing hath com-
manded—

King. That thou shalt yeeld to me? 125

Coun. I, deare my liege, your due.

King. And that, my dearest loue, can be no
lesse

Then right for right and tender loue for loue.

Counl. Then wrong for wrong and endles
hate for hate.—

But,—sith I see your maiestie so bent, 130

That my vnwillignes, my husbands loue,

Your high estate, nor no respect respected

Can be my helpe, but that your mightines

Will ouerbeare and awe these deare regards—

I bynd my discontent to my content, 135

And what I would not Ile compell I will,

Provided that your selfe remoue those lets

That stand betweene your highnes loue and
mine.

King. Name them, faire Countesse, and, by
heauen, I will.

Co. It is their liues that stand betweene our
loue, 140

That I should haue chokt vp, my soueraigne.

Ki. Whose liues, my Lady?

Co. My thrice louing liege,
Your Queene and Salisbury, my wedded hus-
band,

Who liuing haue that tytyle in our loue,

That we cannot bestow but by their death. 145

Ki. Thy opposition is beyond our Law.

Co. So is your desire: if the law

Can hinder you to execute the one,

Let it forbid you to attempt the other.

I Cannot thinke you loue me as you say, 150

Vnlesse you do make good what you haue
sworne.

(*King.*) No more; thy husband and the
Queene shall dye.

Fairer thou art by farre then Hero was,

Beardles Leander not so strong as I:

He swome an easie curraunt for his loue, 155

But I will through a Hellespont of bloud,

To arryue at Cestus where my Hero lyes.

Co. Nay, youle do more; youle make the
Ryuer to

With their hart bloods that keepe our loue
asunder,

Of which my husband and your wife are
twayne. 160

Ki. Thy beauty makes them guilty of their
death

And giues in euidence that they shall dye;

Vpon which verdict I, their Iudge, condemne
them.

Co. (*Aside.*) O periurde beautie, more cor-
rupted Iudge!

When to the great Starre-chamber ore our
heads 165

The vniuersell Sessions calls to count

This packing euill, we both shall tremble for it.

Ki. What saies my faire loue? is she
resolute?

Co. Resolute to bedissolude; and, therefore,
this:

Keepe but thy word, great king, and I am
thine. 170

Stand where thou dost, ile part a little from
thee,

And see how I will yeeld me to thy hands.

(*turning suddenly upon him, and
shewing two Daggers.*)

Here by my side doth hang my wedding knives:

Take thou the one, and with it kill thy Queene,

And learne by me to finde her where she lies;

And with this other Ile dispatch my loue, 176

Which now lies fast a sleepe within my hart:

When they are gone, then Ile consent to
loue.

Stir not, lasciuious king, to hinder me;

My resolution is more nimble far, 180

Then thy preuention can be in my rescue,

And if thou stir, I strike; therefore, stand still,

And heare the choyce that I will put thee to:

Either sweare to leaue thy most vnholie sute

And neuer hence forth to solicit me; 185

Or else, by heauen, this sharpe poynted knyfe

113 S. D. after 111 Qq 116 varieties Col.
118 my C: thy Qq 120 S. D. add. C 121 art]
and art C 123 subjection D 128 tender C:
render Qq 139 them C: then Qd 142 loming Qd
147 and so C

152 Prefix om. Q1 156 through Q2: throng
Q1 Hellespont conj. T: hellie spout Qq 157 To
om. C. at] that C 164 S. D. add. WP 168 resolute
WP 169 Resolv'd conj. C: Resolute WP S. D.
add. C 176 this] the Q2

Shall staine thy earth with that which thou
would staine,
My poore chaste blood. Sweare, Edward,
sweare,
Or I will strike and die before thee heere.

King. Euen by that power I sweare, that
giues me now 190

The power to be ashamed of my selfe,
I neuer meane to part my lips againe
In any words that tends to such a sute.
Arise, true English Ladie, whom our Ile 194
May better boast of then euer Romaine might
Of her, whose ransackt treasure hath taskt
The vaine indeuor of so many pens:

Arise; and be my fault thy honors fame,
Which after ages shall enrich thee with.

I am awaked from this idle dreame.— 200

Warlike, my Sonne, Darby, Artoys, and
Audley!

Braue warriors all, where are you all this
while?

Enter all.

Warlike, I make thee Warden of the North:
Thou, Prince of Wales, and Audley, straight
to Sea;

Scoure to New-hauen; some there staie for me:
My selfe, Artoys, and Darby will through
Flanders, 206

To greete our friends there and to craue their
aide.

This night will scarce suffice me to discouer
My follies seege against a faithfull louer;
For, ere the Sunne shall guilde the esterne skie,
Wele wake him with our Marshall harmonie.

[Exeunt.]

(ACT III.

SCENE I.

Flanders. The French Camp.)

*Enter King Iohn of Fraunce, his two sonnes,
Charles of Normandie, and Phillip, and
the Duke of Lorraine.*

King Iohn. Heere, till our Nauie of a thou-
sand saile

Haue made a breakfast to our foe by Sea,
Let vs incampe, to wait their happie speede.—
Lorraine, what readines is Edward in?
How hast thou heard that he provided is 5
Of marshall furniture for this exploit?

Lo. To lay aside vnecessary soothing,
And not to spend the time in circumstaunce,
Tis bruted for a certenty, my Lord,
That hees exceeding strongly fortified; 10

187 wouldst *Q 2*, etc. 204 Thou] You *C* 210
gild *C*: guide *Q 7* Act III. etc. add. *C* 2 to] of
conj. *pr. ed.*

His subiects flocke as willingly to warre,
As if vnto a tryumph they were led.

Ch. England was wont to harbour malcon-
tents,

Blood thirsty and seditious Catelynes,
Spend thrifts, and such as gape for nothing else
But changing and alteration of the state; 16
And is it possible

That they are now so loyall in them selues?

Lo. All but the Scot, who solemnly protests,
As heeretofore I haue enformd his grace, 20
Neuer to sheath his Sword or take a truce.

Io. Ah, thats the anchredge of some better
hope!

But, on the other side, to thinke what friends
King Edward hath retaynd in Netherland,
Among those euer-bibbing Epicures, 25
Those frothy Dutch men, puffed with double
beere,

That drinke and swill in euery place they
come,

Doth not a little aggrauate mine ire;
Besides, we heare, the Emperor conioynes,
And stalls him in his owne authoritie: 30
But, all the mightier that their number is,
The greater glory reapes the victory.

Some friends haue we beside domesticke
power;

The sterne Polonian, and the warlike Dane,
The king of Bohemia, and of Cycelie, 35
Are all become confederates with vs,
And, as I thinke, are marching hither apace.

(Drum within.)

But soft, I heare the musicke of their drums,
By which I gesse that their approach is neare.

*Enter the King of Bohemia, with Danes, and
a Polonian Captaine, with other soldiers,
another way.*

King of Boheme. King Iohn of Fraunce, as
league and neighborhood 40
Requires, when friends are any way distrest,
I come to aide thee with my countries force.

Pol. Cap. And from great Musco, fearefull
to the Turke,

And lofty Poland, nurse of hardie men,
I bring these seruitors to fight for thee, 45
Who willingly will venture in thy cause.

K. Io. Welcome, Bohemian king, and wel-
come all:

This your great kindnesse I will not forget.
Besides your plentiful rewards in Crownes,
That from our Treasury ye shall receiue, 50
There comes a hare braind Nation, deckt in
pride,

17, 18 One line *Q 2* 33 domesticke *C*: drum
stricke *Q 1*: drumstick *Q 2* 37 *S. D.* add. *C*

The spoyle of whome will be a trebble gaine.
 And now my hope is full, my ioy complete:
 At Sea, we are as puissant as the force
 Of Agamemnon in the Hauen of Troy; 55
 By land, with Zerxes we compare of strength,
 Whose souldiers dranke vp riuers in their
 thirst:

Then, Bayardlike, blinde, ouerweaning Ned,
 To reach at our imperiall dyadem
 Is either to be swallowed of the waues, 60
 Or hackt a peeces when thou comest ashore.

Enter (Marriner).

Mar. Neere to the cost I haue discride, my

Lord,

As I was busie in my watchfull charge,
 The proud Armado of king Edwards ships:
 Which, at the first, far off when I did ken, 65
 Seemd as it were a groue of withered pines;
 But, turning neere, their glorious bright
 aspect,

Their streaming Ensignes, wrought of coul-
 loured silke,

Like to a meddow full of sundry flowers,
 Adornes the naked bosome of the earth: 70

Maiesticall the order of their course,
 Figuring the horned Circle of the Moone:

And on the top gallant of the Admirall
 And likewise all the handmaides of his trayne

The Armes of England and of Fraunce vnite 75
 Are quartred equally by Heralds art:

Thus, titely carried with a merrie gale,
 They plough the Ocean hitherward amayne.

(K. Iohn.) Dare he already crop the Flewer
 de Luce?

I hope, the hony being gathered thence, 80
 He, with the spider, afterward approcht,

Shall sucke forth deadly venom from the
 leaues.—

But wheres our Nauy? how are they prepared
 To wing them selues against this flight of
 Rauens?

Ma. They, hauing knowledge, brought
 them by the scouts, 85

Did breake from Anchor straight, and, puffed
 with rage

No otherwise then were their sailes with winde,
 Made forth, as when the empty Eagle flies,
 To satisfie his hungrie griping mawe.

Io. Theres for thy newes. Returne vnto
 thy barke; 90

And if thou scape the bloody strooke of warre
 And do suruiue the conflict, come againe,

And let vs heare the manner of the fight.

[Exit (Marriner).]

Meane space, my Lords, tis best we be disperst
 To seuerall places, least they chaunce to land:
 First you, my Lord, with your Bohemian
 Troupes, 96

Shall pitch your battailes on the lower hand;
 My eldest sonne, the Duke of Normandie,
 Together with this aide of Muscouites,
 Shall clyme the higher ground another waye;
 Heere in the middle cost, betwixt you both,
 Phillip, my yongest boy, and I will lodge.

So, Lords, be gon, and looke vnto your charge:
 You stand for Fraunce, an Empire faire and
 large. *[Ex(e)unt.]*

Now tell me, Phillip, what is thy concept, 105
 Touching the challenge that the English make?

Ph. I say, my Lord, clayme Edward what
 he can,

And bring he nere so playne a pedegree,
 Tis you are in possession of the Crowne,

And thats the surest poynt of all the Law: 110
 But, were it not, yet ere he should preuaile,

He make a Conduit of my dearest blood,
 Or chase those stragling vpstarts home againe.

King. Well said, young Phillip! Call for
 bread and Wine, 114

That we may cheere our stomacks with repast,
 To locke our foes more sternely in the face.

(A Table and Provisions brought in.) The
 battell hard a farre off.

Now is begun the heauie day at Sea:

Fight, Frenchmen, fight; be like the fieldes of
 Beares,

When they defend their younglings in their
 Caues!

Stir, angry Nemesis, the happie helme, 120
 That, with the sulphur battels of your rage,

The English Fleete may be disperst and sunke.
[Shot.]

Ph. O Father, how this eckoing Cannon
 shot,

Like sweete harmonie, disgests my cates!
K. Io. Now, boy, thou hearest what thun-
 dring terror tis, 125

To buckle for a kingdomes souerentie:
 The earth, with giddie trembling when it
 shakes,

Or when the exalations of the aire
 Breakes in extremitie of lightning flash,

Affrights not more then kings, when they dis-
 pose 130

52 gaine Q 2: game Q 1 61 S. D. Marriner add.
 Q 2 62 discride Q 2: discribde Q 1 73 And om.
 C 79 Prefix om. Q 1 84 fleete Q 2 89 satisfie
 Q 1 90 Thees Q 1

93 S. D. Marriner om. Q 1 104 S. D. after 103 in
 Q 1 105 thy conceite Q 2: their concept Q 1 116
 S. D. Bracketed words add. C 120 Stir Q 2: Steer C
 124 sweetest C, etc. 125 ends thundring Q 2

To shew the rancor of their high swolne harts.

[Retreate.

Retrea(t)e is sounded; one side hath the worse:
O, if it be the French, sweete fortune, turne;
And, in thy turning, change the forward winds,
That, with aduantage of a fauoring skie, 135
Our men may vanquish, and the other flie!

Enter Marriner.

My hart misgiues:—say, mirror of pale death,
To whome belongs the honor of this day?
Relate, I pray thee, if thy breath will serue,
The sad discourse of this discomfiture. 140

Mar. I will, my Lord.

My gracious soueraigne, Fraunce hath tane
the foyle,

And boasting Edward triumphs with successe.
These Iron harted Nauies,

When last I was reporter to your grace, 145
Both full of angry spleene, of hope, and feare,

Hasting to meete each other in the face,
At last conioynd; and by their Admirall

Our Admirall encountred manie shot:
By this, the other, that beheld these twaine 150

Giue earnest peny of a further wracke,
Like fiery Dragons tooke their haughty flight;

And, likewise meeting, from their smoky
wombes

Sent many grym Embassadors of death.
Then gan the day to turne to gloomy night, 155

And darkenes did as wel inclose the quicke
As those that were but newly reft of life.

No leasure serud for friends to bid farewell;
And, if it had, the hideous noise was such,

As ech to other seemed deafe and dombe. 160
Purple the Sea, whose channel fild as fast

With streaming gore, that from the maymed
fell,

As did her gushing moysture breake into
The crannied cleftures of the through shot

planks. 164
Heere flew a head, disseuered from the tronke,

These mangled armes and legs were tost aloft,
As when a wherle winde takes the Summer

dust
And scatters it in middle of the aire.

Then might ye see the reeling vessels split,
And tottering sink into the ruthlesse flood, 170

Vntill their lofty tops were seene no more.
All shifts were tried, both for defence and hurt:

And now the effect of vallor and of force,
Of resolution and of cowardize,

We liuely pictured; how the one for fame, 175

131 S. D. after 132 Qq 134 froward Q2 135
sauoring Q1 136 the other C: thither Q1: th'
other Q2 164 crannied WP: cranny'd C: cranny
Qq 165 dissuauered Q1 173 force] fear C, etc.

174 of] of a Q1 175 We] Were C

The other by compulsion laid about:

Much did the *Nonpareille*, that braue ship;
So did the blacke snake of Bullen, then which
A bonnier vessel neuer yet spred sayle.
But all in vaine; both Sunne, the Win(d)e and
tyde, 180

Reuolted all vnto our foe mens side,
That we perforce were fayne to giue them way,
And they are landed.—Thus my tale is donne:
We haue vntimly lost, and they haue woone.

K. Io. Then rests there nothing, but with
present speede 185

To ioyne our seuerall forces al in one,
And bid them battaile, ere they rainge to farre.
Come, gentle Phillip, let vs hence depart;
This souldiers words haue perst thy fathers
hart. [Exeunt.

(SCENE II.

Picardy. *Fields near Cressi.*)

Enter two French men; a woman and two little
Children meet them, and other Citizens.

One. Wel met, my masters: how now?
whats the newes?

And wherefore are ye laden thus with stuffe?
What, is it quarter daie that you remoue,
And carrie bag and baggage too?

Two. Quarter day? I, and quartering day,
I feare: 5

Haue ye not heard the newes that flies abroad?
One. What newes?

Three. How the French Nauy is destroyd
at Sea,

And that the English Armie is arriued.
One. What then? 10

Two. What then, quoth you? why, ist not
time to flie,

When enuie and destruction is so nigh?
One. Content thee, man; they are farre

enough from hence,
And will be met, I warrant ye, to their cost,

Before they breake so far into the Realme. 15
Two. I, so the Grashopper doth spend the

time
In mirthfull iollitie, till Winter come;

And then too late he would redeeme his time,
When frozen cold hath nipt his carelesse

head.
He, that no sooner will prouide a Cloake, 20

Then when he sees it doth begin to raigne,
May, peraduenture, for his negligence,

Be thoroughly washed, when he suspects it
not.

177 Nonpareille C: Nom per illa Qq 180 Wine
Q1: winde Q2 Scene II. etc. add. C S. D. and
other Q2: another Q1 5 quartering pay Q1 6
ye] we Q1 22 negligence Q1

We that haue charge and such a trayne as
this, 24
Must looke in time to looke for them and vs,
Least, when we would, we cannot be relieved.

One. Belike, you then dispaire of all suc-
cesse,

And thinke your Country will be subiugate.
Three. We cannot tell; tis good to feare the
worst.

One. Yet rather fight, then, like vnnaturall
sonnes, 30

Forsake your louing parents in distresse.
Two. Tush, they that haue already taken
armes

Are manie fearefull millions in respect
Of that small handfull of our enimies:
But tis a rightfull quarrell must preuaile; 35
Edward is sonne vnto our late kings sister,
Where Iohn Valoys is three degrees remoued.

Wo. Besides, there goes a Prophetie abroad,
Published by one that was a Fryer once, 39
Whose Oracles haue many times prooued true;
And now he sayes, the tyme will shortly come,
When as a Lyon, rowed in the west,
Shall carie hence the fluerdeluce of France:
These, I can tell yee, and such like surmises
Strike many french men cold vnto the heart.

Enter a French man.

(Four.) Flie, cuntry men and cytizens of
France! 46

Sweete flowring peace, the roote of happie life,
Is quite abandoned and expulst the lande;
In sted of whome ransackt constraining warre
Syts like to Rauens vpon your houses topps;
Slaughter and mischiefe walke within your
streets, 51

And, vnrestrained, make hauock as they passe;
The forme whereof euen now my selfe beheld
Vpon this faire mountaine whence I came.
For so far as I directed mine eies, 55
I might perceauie fise Cities all on fire,
Corne fieldes and vineyards, burning like an
ouen;

And, as the reaking vapour in the wind
Tourned but aside, I like wise might disseerne
The poore inhabitants, escapt the flame, 60
Fall numberles vpon the souldiers pikes.

Three waies these dredfull ministers of wrath
Do tread the measuers of their tragicke march:
Vpon the right hand comes the conquering
King,

Vpon the left his hot vnbridled sonne, 65
And in the midst our nations glittering hoast;

All which, though distant yet, conspire in one,
To leaue a desolation where they come.

Flie therefore, Citizens, if you be wise,
Seeke out som habitation further of: 70

Here if you staie, your wiues will be abused,
Your treasure sharde before your weeping eies;
Shelter you your selues, for now the storme
doth rise.

Away, away; me thinks I heare their
drums:—

Ah, wretched France, I greatly feare thy fal;
Thy glory shaketh like a tottering wall. 76
(Exeunt.)

(SCENE III.)

The same. Drums.

*Enter King Edward, and the Erle of Darby,
With Souldiers, and Gobin de Graie.*

Kin. Where the French man by whose
cunning guide

We found the shalow of this Riuer Some,
And had direction how to passe the sea?

Go. Here, my good Lord. 4

Kin. How art thou calde? tell me thy name.

Go. Gobin de Graie, if please your excel-
lence.

Kin. Then, Gobin, for the seruice thou hast
done,

We here enlarge and giue thee liberty;
And, for recompenc(e) beside this good,
Thou shalt receiue fise hundred markes in
golde.— 10

I know not how, we should haue met our
sonne,

Whom now in heart I wish I might behold.

Enter Artoyes.

(Art.) Good newes, my Lord; the prince is
hard at hand,

And with him comes Lord Awdley and the
rest, 14

Whome since our landing we could neuer meet.

*Enter Prince Edward, Lord Awdley, and
Souldiers.*

K. E. Welcome, faire Prince! How hast
thou sped, my sonne,

Since thy arriuall on the coaste of Fraunce?

Pr. Ed. Succesfullie, I thanke the gracious
heauens:

Some of their strongest Cities we haue wonne,
As Harflew, Lo, Crotay, and Carentigne, 20

And others wasted, leauing at our heeles
A wide apparant feild and beaten path

73 you om. C, etc. 76 S. D. om. Q1 Scene III.
etc. add. C 1 guide Qq: guidance C, etc. 2 Some
WP: Some Qq 9 for] for a C 13 Prefix om. Q1
20 Harlsen, Lie, Crotay Qq: Harfleur, Lo, Crotay C

27 all C: ill Qq 46 No prefix in Qq 58 recking
conj. C: leaking Qq 59 I tourned but Qq: Turned
C 65 his] is Q1

For solitarines to progresse in:

Yet those that would submit we kindly
pardned,
But who in scorne refused our proffered
peace, 25

Indure the penaltie of sharpe reuenge.

Ki. Ed. Ah, Fraunce, why shouldest thou
be thus obstinate

Agaynst the kind embracement of thy friends?
How gently had we thought to touch thy brest
And set our foot vpon thy tender mould, 30

But that, in froward and disdainfull pride,
Thou, like a skittish and vtamed coult,
Dost start aside and strike vs with thy heeles!

But tel me, Ned, in all thy warlike course,
Hast thou not seene the vsurping King of
Fraunce? 35

Pri. Yes, my good Lord, and not two owers
ago,

With full a hundred thousand fighting men—
Vpon the one side of the riuers banke
And on the other both, his multitudes.

I feard he would haue cropt our smaller power:
But happily, perceiuing your approach, 41
He hath with drawen himselfe to Cressey
plaines;

Where, as it seemeth by his good araie,
He meanes to byd vs battaile presently.

Kin. Ed. He shall be welcome; thats the
thing we craue. 45

*Enter King Iohn, Dukes of Normanndy and
Lorraine, King of Boheme, yong Phillip,
and Souldiers.*

Iohn. Edward, know that Iohn, the true
king of Fraunce,

Musing thou shouldest inroach vpon his land,
And in thy tyranous proceeding slay

His faithfull subiects and subuert his Townes,
Spits in thy face; and in this manner folowing
Obraids thee with thine arrogant intrusion: 51

First, I condemne thee for a fugitiue,
A theeuish pyrate, and a needie mate,
One that hath either no abiding place,

Or else, inhabiting some barraine soile, 55
Where neither hearb or frutfull graine is had,
Dost altogether liue by pilfering:

Next, insomuch thou hast infringed thy faith,
Broke leage and solemne couenant made with
mee,

I hould thee for a false pernitiuous wretch: 60
And, last of all, although I scorne to cope
With one so much inferior to my selfe,

25 But *con.* C: For *Qq* pofferd *Q1* 27 thus *Q2*:
this *Q1* 31 an *Q2* 38 of] with *Qq*: o' C 39 I on
the other; with C. etc. 60 false] most *Q2* 62
so much C: such *Qq*: such an *D*

Yet, in respect thy thirst is all for golde,
Thy labour rather to be feared then loued,
To satisfie thy lust in either parte, 65
Heere am I come, and with me haue I brought
Exceeding store of treasure, perle, and coyne.
Leaue, therefore, now to persecute the weake,
And, armed entring conflict with the armd,
Let it be seene, mongest other pettie thefts, 70
How thou canst win this pillage manfully.

K. Ed. If gall or wormwood haue a pleasant
tast,

Then is thy sallutation hony sweete;
But as the one hath no such propertie,
So is the other most satiricall. 75

Yet wot how I regarde thy worthles tants:
If thou haue vtred them to foile my fame
Or dym the reputation of my birth,

Know that thy woluish barking cannot hurt;
If slylie to insinuate with the worlde, 80

And with a strumpets artificial line
To painte thy vitious and deformed cause,
Bee well assured, the counterfeit will fade,
And in the end thy fowle defects be seene;

But if thou didst it to prouoke me on, 85
As who should saie I were but timerous.
Or, coldly negligent, did need a spurre,

Bethinke thy selfe howe slacke I was at sea,
How since my landing I haue wonn no townes,
Entered no further but vpon the coast, 90

And there haue euer since securie slept.
But if I haue bin other wise employd,

Imagin, Valoys, whether I intende
To skirmish, not for pillage, but for the
Crowne

Which thou dost weare; and that I vowe to
haue, 95

Or one of vs shall fall into his graue.

Pri. Ed. Looke not for crosse inuectiues at
our hands,

Or rayling execrations of despight:
Let creeping serpents, hid in hollow banckes,

Sting with their tongues; we haue remorseles
swordes, 100

And they shall pleade for vs and our affaires.
Yet thus much, briefly, by my fathers leaue:

As all the immodest poyson of thy throat
Is scandalous and most notorious lyes,

And our pretended quarell is truly iust, 105
So end the battaile when we meet to daie:

May eyther of vs prosper and preuaile,
Or, luckles curst, receue eternall shame!

Kin. Ed. That needs no further question;
and I knowe,

64 Thy] They *Q1* 66 I haue *Q2* 77 soil *conj.*
C 81 line] hue *conj.* Col. 83 How C: Now *Q1*
90 the] thy *Q2* 92 otherwayes *Q2* 94 for the]
the C 96 his] this *Q1* 99 hide *Q1* 105 is om. C

His conscience witnesseth, it is my right. — 110
Therefore, Valoys, say, wilt thou yet resigne,
Before the sickles thrust into the Corne,
Or that inkindled fury turne to flame?

Ioh. Edward, I know what right thou hast
in France;

And ere I basely will resigne my Crowne, 115
This Champion field shalbe a poole of bloode,
And all our prospect as a slaughter house.

Pr. Ed. I, that approues thee, tyrant, what
thou art:

No father, king, or shepheard of thy realme,
But one, that teares her entrailes with thy
handes, 120

And, like a thirstie tyger, suckst her bloud.

Aud. You peeres of France, why do you
follow him

That is so prodigall to spend your liues?

Ch. Whom should they follow, aged
impotent,

But he that is their true borne soueraigne? 125

Kin. Obraidst thou him, because within
his face

Time hath ingraud deep caracters of age?

Know, these graue schollers of experience,
Like stiffe growen oakes, will stand immou-
able,

When whirle wind quickly turnes vp yonger
trese. 130

Dar. Was euer anie of thy fathers house
King but thyselfe, before this present time?

Edwards great linage, by the mothers side,

Fine hundred yeeres hath helde the scepter vp:

Iudge then, conspiratours, by this descent, 135
Which is the true borne soueraigne, this or
that.

Philip. Father, range your battailes, prate
no more;

These English faine would spend the time in
words,

That, might approching, they might escape
vnfought.

K. Ioh. Lords and my louing Subiects,
nowes the time, 140

That your intended force must bide the touch.
Therefore, my frinds, consider this in breefe:

He that you fight for is your naturall King;

He against whom you fight, a forrener:

He that you fight for, rules in clemencie, 145

And raines you with a mild and gentle byt;

He against whome you fight, if hee preuaile,

Will straight inthron himselfe in tyrannie,

Make slaues of you, and with a heauie hand

113 turned Q² 116 champain Col. 120 tearst

comp. C 128 Know that these Q⁴ 131 line ends

king Q⁴ 134 helde] kept Q² 137 Prefix Philip

Q²: Pri. Q¹ 138 wodrs Q¹ 140 nowes] Knowes

Q¹ 144 you] ye Q²

Curtall and courb your swetest libertie. 150

Then, to protect your Country and your
King,

Let but the haughty Courrage of your hartes

Answer the number of your able handes,

And we shall quicklie chase theis fugitiues.

For whats this Edward but a belly god, 155

A tender and lasciuious wantonnes,

That thother daie was almost dead for loue?

And what, I praie you, is his goodly gard?

Such as, but scant them of their chifnes of
beefe

And take awaie their downie featherbedes, 160

And presently they are as resty stiffe,

As twere a many ouer ridden iades.

Then, French men, scorne that such should be
your Lords,

And rather bind ye them in captiue bands.

All Fra. Viue le Roy! God saue King Iohn
of France! 165

Io. Now on this plaine of Cressie spred your
selues,—

And, Edward, when thou darest, begin the
fight.

*Exeunt King Iohn, Cha., Phi., Lor.,
Boh. and Forces.*

Ki. Ed. We presently will meet thee, Iohn
of Fraunce:—

And, English Lordes, let vs resolute this
daie,

Either to cleere vs of that scandalous cryme,
Or be intombd in our innocence. 171

And, Ned, because this battell is the first

That euer yet thou foughtest in pitched field,

As ancient custome is of Martialists,

To dub thee with the tipe of chiuallrie, 175

In solemne manner wee will giue thee armes.

Come, therefore, Heralds, orderly bring forth

A strong attirement for the prince my sonne.

*Enter foure Heraldes, bringing in a coate
armour, a helmet, a lance, and a shield.*

Kin. Edward Plantagenet, in the name of
God,

As with this armour I impall thy breast, 180

So be thy noble vnrelenting heart

Wald in with flint of matchlesse fortitude,

That neuer base affections enter there:

Fight and be valiant, conquere where thou
comst!

Now follow, Lords, and do him honor to. 185

Dar. Edward Plantagenet, prince of Wales,

As I do set this helmet on thy head,

Wherewith the chamber of thy braine is
fenst,

167 S. D. add. C 169 this C: the Q⁴ 171 in-

nocencie Q² 188 thy C: this Q⁴

So may thy temples, with Bellonas hand,
Be still adorn'd with lawrell victorie: 190
Fight and be valiant, conquer where thou
comst!

Aud. Edward Plantagenet, prince of Wales,
Receiue this lance into thy manly hand;
Vse it in fashion of a brasen pen, 194
To drawe forth bloudie stratagems in France,
And print thy valiant deeds in honors booke:
Fight and be valiant, vanquish where thou
comst!

Art. Edward Plantagenet, prince of Wales,
Hold, take this target, weare it on thy
arme;
And may the view thereof, like Perseus
shield, 200
Astonish and transforme thy gazing foes
To senselesse images of meger death:
Fight and be valiant, conquer where thou
comst!

Ki. Now wants there nought but knight-
hood, which deferd
Wee leaue, till thou hast won it in the field.

(P. Ed.) My gracious father and yee for-
warde peeres, 206
This honor you haue done me, animates
And chears my greene, yet scarce appearing
strength

With comfortable good presaging signes,
No other wise then did ould Iacobes wordes,
When as he breathed his blessings on his
sonnes. 211

These hallowed giftes of yours when I pro-
phane,
Or vse them not to glory of my God,
To patronage the fatherles and poore,
Or for the benefite of Englands peace, 215
Be numbe my ioynts, waxe feeble both mine
armes,

Wither my hart, that, like a saples tree,
I may remayne the map of infamy.

K. Ed. Then thus our steelde Battailles shall
be raigned:

The leading of the vawarde, Ned, is thyne; 220
To dignifie whose lusty spirit the more,
We temper it with Audlys grautie,
That, courage and experience ioynd in one,
Your manage may be second vnto none:
For the mayne battells, I will guide my
selfe; 225

And, Darby, in the rereward march behind.
That orderly disposd and set in ray,
Let vs to horse; and God graunt vs the day!

[*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE IV.

The Same.)

Alarum. Enter a many French men flying.

After them Prince Edward, run(n)ing. Then
enter King Iohn and Duke of Loraine.

Iohn. Oh, Lorrain, say, what meane our
men to fly?

Our number is far greater then our foes.

Lor. The garrison of Genoaes, my Lorde,
That cam from Paris weary with their
march,

Grudging to be (so) suddenly imployd, 5
No sooner in the forefront tooke their place,
But, straite retyring, so dismaide the rest,
As likewise they betook themselves to flight,
In which, for hast to make a safe escape,
More in the clustering throng are prest to
death, 10

Then by the ennemie, a thousand fold.

K. Io. O haplesse fortune! Let vs yet assay,
If we can counsell some of them to stay.

(*Exeunt.*)

(SCENE V.

The Same.)

Enter King Edward and Audley.

Ki. E. Lord Audley, whiles our sonne is in
the chase,

With draw our powers vnto this little hill,
And heere a season let vs breath our selues.

Au. I will, my Lord. [*Exit. Sound Retreat.*]

K. Ed. Iust dooming heauen, whose secret
providence 5

To our grosse iudgement is inscrutable,
How are we bound to praise thy wondrous
works,

That hast this day giuen way vnto the right,
And made the wicked stumble at them selues!

Enter Artoys.

(*Art.*) Rescue, king Edward! rescue for
thy sonne! 10

Kin. Rescue, Artoys? what, is he prisoner,
Or by violence fell beside his horse?

Ar. Neither, my Lord; but narrowly beset
With turning Frenchmen, whom he did persue,
As tis impossible that he should scape, 15
Except your highnes presently descend.

Kin. Tut, let him fight; we gaue him armes
to day,

And he is laboring for a knighthood, man.

193 manly] manlike Q 2 197 vanquish] conquer
Q 2, etc. 206 Prefix om. Q 1 209 persaging Q 1
219 thus] this Q 1 220 vawarde Q 1

Scene IV. etc. add. C 5 so add. C 10 throng]
through Q 2 13 S. D. om. Q 1 Scene V. etc.
add. C 2 our] your Q 2, etc. 10 Prefix om. Q 1-
12 Or] Or else C

Enter Derby.

Da. The Prince, my Lord, the Prince! oh, succour him!

Hees close incompast with a world of odds! 20

Ki. Then will he win a world of honor to, If he by valour can redeeme him thence; If not, what remedy? we haue more sonnes Then one, to comfort our declyning age.

Enter Audley.

Au. Renowned Edward, giue me leaue, I pray, 25

To lead my souldiers where I may releue Your Graces sonne, in danger to be slayne. The snares of French, like Emmets on a banke, Muster about him; whilest he, Lion like, Intangled in the net of their assaults, 30 Frantiquely wrends, and byt(e)s the wouen toyle:

But all in vaine, he cannot free him selfe.

K. Ed. Audley, content; I will not haue a man,

On paine of death, sent forth to succour him: This is the day, ordaynd by desteny, 35 To season his courage with those greuous thoughts,

That, if he breaketh out, Nestors yeares on earth

Will make him sauor still of this exployt.

Dar. Ah, but he shall not lue to see those dayes.

Ki. Why, then his Epitaph is lasting prayse.

Au. Yet, good my Lord, tis too much wilfulness, 41

To let his blood be spilt, that may be saude.

Kin. Exclayme no more; for none of you can tell

Whether a borrowed aid will serue, or no; Perhaps he is already slayne or tane. 45

And dare a Falcon when shees in her flight, And euer after sheele be haggard like:

Let Edward be deliuered by our hands, And still, in danger, hele expect the like;

But if himselfe himselfe redeeme from thence, He will haue vanquisht cheerefull death and feare, 51

And euer after dread their force no more Then if they were but babes or Captiue slaues.

Aud. O cruell Father! Farewell, Edward, then!

Da. Farewell, sweete Prince, the hope of chiuallry! 55

Art. O, would my life might ransom him from death!

36 his green courage with those thoughts C 37 breathe out conj. C 47 haggard Q 1

K. Ed. But soft, me thinkes I heare

(Retreat sounded.)

The dismall charge of Trumpets loud retreat. All are not slayne, I hope, that went with him; Some will returne with tidings, good or bad. 60

Enter Prince Edward in tryumph, bearing in his hande his shiuered Launce, and the King of Boheme, borne before, wrapt in the Coullours. They runne and imbrace him.

Aud. O ioyfull sight! victorious Edward liues!

Der. Welcome, braue Prince!

Ki. Welcome, Plantagenet!

Pr. (kneele and kisse his fathers hand). First hauing donne my duty as beeseemed,

Lords, I regret you all with harty thanks. 65

And now, behold, after my winters toyle, My paynefull voyage on the boystrous sea

Of warres deuouring gulphes and steely rocks, I bring my fraught vnto the wished port,

My Summers hope, my trauels sweet reward: And heere, with humble duety, I present 71

This sacrifice, this first fruit of my sword, Cropt and cut downe euen at the gate of death,

The king of Boheme, father, whome I slue; Whose thousands had intrencht me round

about, 75

And laye as thicke vpon my battered crest, As on an Anuell, with their ponderous glaues:

Yet marble courage still did vnderprop; And when my weary armes, with often blowes,

Like the continuall laboring Wood-mans Axe That is enioynd to fell a load of Oakes, 81

Began to faulter, straight I would recorde My gifts you gaue me, and my zealous vow,

And then new courage made me fresh againe, That, in despight, I carud my passage forth, 85

And put the multitude to speedy flight. Lo, thus hath Edwards hand fild your request,

And done, I hope, the duety of a Knight.

Ki. I, well thou hast deserud a knight-hood, Ned!

And, therefore, with thy sword, yet reaking warme 90

[His Sword borne by a Soldier.

With blood of those that fought to be thy bane, Arise, Prince Edward, trusty knight at armes:

This day thou hast confounded me with ioy, And proude thy selfe fit heire vnto a king.

Pr. Heere is a note, my gracious Lord, of those 95

57 S. D. add. C 75 Whose thousands C: Whom you sayd Qq 82 recorde pr. ed.: recouer Qq: remember C 85 carud Q 2: craud Q 1 87 thus Q 2 this Q 1 90 S. D. after 86 in Q 1 91 sought T

That in this conflict of our foes were slaine:
Eleuen Princes of esteeme, Foure score Barons,
A hundred and twenty knights, and thirty
thousand

Commonsouldiers; and, of our men, a thousand.

(K. Ed.) Our God be praised! Now, Iohn
of Fraunce, I hope, 100

Thou knowest King Edward for no wantonnesse,
No loue sicke cockney, nor his souldiers iades.
But which way is the fearefull king escapt?

Pr. Towards Poyctiers, noble father, and
his sonnes.

King. Ned, thou and Audley shall pursue
them still; 105

My selfe and Derby will to Calice streight,
And there begyrt that Hauen towne with seege.
Now lies it on an vpshot; therefore strike,
And wistlie follow, whiles the games on foote.
What Pictures this?

Pr. A Pellican, my Lord, 110

Wounding her bosome with her crooked beak,
That so her nest of young ones may be fed
With drops of blood that issue from her hart;
The motto *Sic & vos*, 'and so should you'.

[Exeunt.]

(ACT IV.

SCENE I.

Bretagne. Camp of the English.)

Enter Lord Mountford with a Coronet in his
hande; with him the Earle of Salisbury.

Mo. My Lord of Salisbury, since by your
aide

Mine ennemie Sir Charles of Bloys is slaine,
And I againe am quietly possest

In Brittaines Dukedome, knowe that I resolute,
For this kind furtherance of your king and you,
To sweare allegiance to his maiesty: 6

In signe whereof receiue this Coronet,
Beare it vnto him, and, withall, mine othe,
Neuer to be but Edwards faithful friend.

Sa. I take it, Mountfort. Thus, I hope,
eare long 10

The whole Dominions of the Realme of
Fraunce

Wilbe surrendred to his conquering hand.

[Exit (Mountford).]

Now, if I knew but safely how to passe,
I would at Calice gladly meete his Grace,
Whether I am by letters certified 15
That he intends to haue his host remooude.

97-9 Four lines in C, etc. 99 Common] Priuate
Q 2 100 Prefix add. Q 2 110 Prefix Ki. repeated
before What in Q 1 112 may] might Q 1 Act IV.
etc. add. C 1 your Q 2: our Q 1 4 Brittaines Q 1
8 my Q 2 12 S. D. om. Q 2 14 at C: to Qq
16 That C: Yet Q1

It shal be so, this pollicy will serue:—
Ho, whose within? Bring Villiers to me.

Enter Villeirs.

Villiers, thou knowest, thou art my prisoner,
And that I might for ransome, if I would, 20
Require of thee a hundred thousand Francks,
Or else retayne and keepe thee captiue still:
But so it is, that for a smaller charge
Thou maist be quit, and if thou wilt thy selfe.
And this it is: Procure me but a pasport 25
Of Charles, the Duke of Normandy, that I
Without restraint may haue recourse to
Callis

Through all the Countries where he hath to
doe;

Which thou maist easely obtayne, I thinke,
By reason I haue often heard thee say, 30
He and thou were students once together:
And then thou shalt be set at libertie.

How saiest thou? wilt thou vndertake to do
it?

Vil. I will, my Lord; but I must speake
with him.

Sa. Why, so thou shalt; take Horse, and
post from hence: 35

Onely before thou goest, sweare by thy faith,
That, if thou canst not compasse my desire,
Thou wilt returne my prisoner backe againe;
And that shalbe sufficient warrant for mee.

Vil. To that condition I agree, my Lord, 40
And will vnfaignedly performe the same. [Exit.]

Sa. Farewell, Villiers.—

Thus once I meane to trie a French mans
faith. [Exit.]

(SCENE II.

Picardy. The English Camp before Calais.)

Enter King Edward and Derby, with Souldiers.

Kin. Since they refuse our profered league,
my Lord,

And will not ope their gates, and let vs in,
We will intrinch our selues on euery side,
That neither vituals nor supply of men
May come to succour this accursed towne: 5
Famine shall combate where our swords are
stopt.

Enter sixe poore Frenchmen.

Der. The promised aid, that made them
stand aloofe,

Is now retirde and gone an other way:
It will repent them of their stubborne will.
But what are these poore ragged slaues, my
Lord? 10

31 thou] thyself C wert Q 2 39 mee] thee C
43 This conj. C Scene II. etc. add. C 2 their]
the Q 2 6 S. D. after 9 in C sixe] some C

Ki. Edw. Aske what they are; it seemes,
they come from Callis.

Der. You wretched patterns of dispayre
and woe,

What are you, liuing men or glyding ghosts,
Crept from your graues to walke vpon the earth?

Poore. No ghosts, my Lord, but men that
breath a life 15

Farre worse then is the quiet sleepe of death:
Wee are distressed poore inhabitants,

That long haue been diseased, sicke, and lame;
And now, because we are not fit to serue,

The Captayne of the towne hath thrust vs
foorth, 20

That so expence of victuals may be sau'd,

K. Ed. A charitable deed, no doubt, and
worthy praisel

But how do you imagine then to speed?

We are your enemies; in such a case

We can no lesse but put ye to the sword, 25
Since, when we proffered truce, it was refus'd.

Poore. And if your grace no otherwise
vouchsafe,

As welcome death is vnto vs as life.

Ki. Poore silly men, much wrongd and
more distrest!

Go, Derby, go, and see they be relieud; 30
Command that victuals be appoynted them,

And giue to euery one fife Crownes a peece:
(*Exeunt Derby and Frenchmen.*)

The Lion scornes to touch the yeelding pray,
And Edwards sword must flesh it selfe in such
As wilfull stubbornnes hath made peruerse. 35

Enter Lord Pearsie.

Ki. Lord Persie! welcome: whats thenewes
in England?

Per. The Queene, my Lord, comes heere
to your Grace,

And from hir highnesse and the Lord vicegerent
I bring this happie tidings of successe:

Dauid of Scotland, lately vp in armes, 40
Thinking, belike, he soonest should preuaile,

Your highnes being absent from the Realme,
Is, by the fruitfull seruice of your peeres

And painefull trauell of the Queene her selfe,
That, big with child, was euery day in armes, 45

Vanquisht, subdu'd, and taken prisoner.

Ki. Thanks, Persie, for thy newes, with all
my hart!

What was he tooke him prisoner in the field?

Per. A Esquire, my Lord; Iohn Copland is
his name:

12 partners *Q 2* 13 ye *Q 2* or] er *Q 1* 22 no
doubt om. *C* 25 ye] you *Q 2* 27 Prefix *Poore*
Q 2: So. *Q 1* 32 *S. D.* add. *C* 34 flesh *Col.*:
fresh *Q 2* 37 comes heere] commends her *C* 43
fruitfull] faithfull *Q 2* 49 squire *Q 2*

Who since, intreated by her Maiestie, 50
Denies to make surrender of his prize
To anie but vnto your grace alone;

Whereat the Queene is greuously displeasd.
Ki. Well, then wele haue a Pursiuaunt
dispatcht,

To summon Copland hither out of hand, 55
And with him he shall bring his prisoner king.

Per. The Queene's, my Lord, her selfe by
this at Sea,

And purposeth, as soone as winde will serue,
To land at Callis, and to visit you.

Ki. She shall be welcome; and, to wait her
comming, 60

Ile pitch my tent neere to the sandy shore.

Enter a (French) Captayne.

(*Captaine.*) The Burgesses of Callis, mighty
king,

Haue by a counsell willingly decreed
To yeld the towne and Castle to your hands,

Vpon condition it will please your grace 65
To graunt them benefite of life and goods.

K. Ed. They wil so! Then, belike, they
may command,

Dispose, elect, and gouerne as they list.

No, sirra, tell them, since they did refuse
Our princely clemencie at first proclaymed, 70

They shall not haue it now, although they
would;

(I) will accept of nought but fire and sword,
Except, within these two daies, sixe of them,

That are the welthiest marchaunts in the towne,
Come naked, all but for their linnen shirts, 75

With each a halter hangd about his necke,
And prostrate yeld themselues, vpon their

knees,
To be afflicted, hanged, or what I please;

And so you may informe their masterships.
(*Exeunt (Edward and Percy).*)

Cap. Why, this it is to trust a broken staffe:
Had we not been perswaded, Iohn our King

Would with his armie haue releed the towne,
We had not stood vpon defiance so: 83

But now tis past that no man can recall,
And better some do go to wrack then all. [*Exit.*]

(SCENE III.

*Poitou. Fields near Poitiers. The French
camp; Tent of the Duke of Normandy.*)

Enter Charles of Normandy and Villiers.

Ch. I wonder, Villiers, thou shouldst
importune me

54 dispatch *Q 1* 57 Queene *Q 1* 61 *S. D.* French
add. *C* 62 Prefix add. *Q 2* 72 I will] Will *Q 1*
73 these] this *Q 2* 79 *S. D.* Bracketed words add. *C*
Scene III. etc. add. *C*

For one that is our deadly ennemie.

Vil. Not for his sake, my gracious Lord,
so much

Am I become an earnest aduocate,
As that thereby my ransome will be quit. 5

Ch. Thy ransome, man? why needest thou
talke of that?

Art thou not free? and are not all occasions,
That happen for aduantage of our foes,
To be accepted of, and stood vpon?

Vil. No, good my Lord, except the same
be iust; 10

For profit must with honor be comixt,
Or else our actions are but scandalous.

But, letting passe these intricate obiections,
Will please your highnes to subscribe, or no?

Ch. Villiers, I will not, nor I cannot do it;
Salisbury shall not haue his will so much, 16
To clayme a pasport how it pleaseth him-
selfe.

Vil. Why, then I know the extremitie, my
Lord;

I must returne to prison whence I came.

Ch. Returne? I hope thou wilt not; 20
What bird that hath escapt the fowlers gin,
Will not beware how shees insnard againe?

Or, what is he, so seneceles and secure,
That, hauing hardely past a dangerous gulfe,
Will put him selfe in perill there againe? 25

Vil. Ah, but it is mine othe, my gracious
Lord,

Which I in conscience may not violate,
Or else a kingdome should not draw me hence.

Ch. Thine othe? why, that doth bind thee
to abide:

Hast thou not sworne obedience to thy Prince?

Vil. In all things that vprightly he com-
mands: 31

But either to perswade or threaten me,
Not to performe the couenant of my word,
Is lawlesse, and I need not to obey.

Ch. Why, is it lawfull for a man to kill, 35
And not, to breake a promise with his foe?

Vil. To kill, my Lord, when warre is once
proclaymd,

So that our quarrel be for wrongs receaude,
No doubt, is lawfully permitted vs:

But in an othe we must be well aduisd, 40
How we do sweare, and, when we once haue
sworne,

Not to infringe it, though we die therefore:

Therefore, my Lord, as willing I returne,
As if I were to flic to paradise.

Ch. Stay, my Villeirs; thine honorable
minde 45

Deserues to be eternally admire.

Thy sute shalbe no longer thus deferd:

Giue me the paper, Ile subscribe to it;

And, wheretofore I loued thee as Villeirs,
Heereafter Ile embrace thee as my selfe. 50
Stay, and be still in fauour with thy Lord.

Vil. I humbly thanke your grace; I must
dispatch,

And send this pasport first vnto the Earle,
And then I will attend your highnes pleasure.

Ch. Do so, Villeirs;—and Charles, when he
hath neede, 55

Be such his soldiours, howsoever he speede!
[Exit Villeirs.]

Enter King Iohn.

K. Io. Come, Charles, and arme thee;
Edward is intrapt,

The Prince of Wales is false into our hands,
And we haue compast him; he cannot scape.

Ch. But will your highnes fight to day? 60

Io. What else, my son? hees scarce eight
thousand strong,

And we are threescore thousand at the least.

Ch. I haue a prophecy, my gracious Lord,
Wherein is written what successe is like

To happen vs in this outrageous warre; 65
It was deliuered me at Cresses field

By one that is an aged Hermyt there.

[Reads] 'When fethered foul shal make thine
army tremble,

And flint stones rise and breake the battell
ray,

Then thinke on him that doth not now dis-
semble; 70

For that shalbe the haples dreadfull day:
Yet, in the end, thy foot thou shalt aduance

As farre in England as thy foe in Fraunce.'

Io. By this it seemes we shalbe fortunate:
For as it is impossible that stones 75

Should euer rise and breake the battaile
ray,

Or airie foule make men in armes to quake,
So is it like, we shall not be subdude:

Or say this might be true, yet in the end,
Since he doth promise we shall driue him

hence 80
And forrage their Countrie as they haue don
ours,

By this reuenge that losse will seeme the lesse.
But all are fryuolous fancies, toyes, and
dreames:

Once we are sure we haue insnard the sonne,
Catch we the father after how we can. 85

[Exeunt.]

(SCENE IV.

*The same. The English Camp.)**Enter Prince Edward, Audley, and others.**Pr.* Audley, the armes of death embrace vs round,

And comfort haue we none, saue that to die

We pay sower earnest for a sweeter life.

At Cressey field our Clouds of Warlike smoke
Chokt vp those French mouths & disseuered them: 5But now their multitudes of millions hide,
Masking as twere, the beautilous burning
Sunne,

Leaving no hope to vs, but sullen darke

And eielesse terror of all ending night.

Au. This suddaine, mightie, and expedient
head 10That they haue made, faire Prince, is wonder-
full.

Before vs in the vallie lies the king,

Vantagd with all that heauen and earth can
yeeld;

His partie stronger battaild then our whole:

His sonne, the brauing Duke of Normandie, 15

Hath trimd the Mountaine on our right hand
vp

In shining plate, that now the aspiring hill

Shewes like a siluer quarrie or an orbe,

Aloft the which the Banners, bannarets,

And new replenisht pendants cuff the aire 20

And beat the windes, that for their gaudinesse

Struggles to kisse them: on our left hand lies

Phillip, the younger issue of the king,

Coting the other hill in such arraie,

That all his guilded vpright pikes do seeme 25

Streight trees of gold, the pendants leaues;

And their deuce of Antique heraldry,

Quartred in collours, seeming sundry fruits,

Makes it the Orchard of the Hesperides: 29

Behinde vs too the hill doth beare his height,

For like a halfe Moone, opening but one way,

It rounds vs in; there at our backs are lodgd

The fatall Crosbowes, and the battaile there

Is gourned by the rough Chattillion. 34

Then thus it stands: the valleie for our flight

The king binds in; the hills on either hand

Are proudly royalized by his sonnes;

And on the Hill behind stands certaine death

In pay and seruice with Chattillion.

Pr. Deathes name is much more mightie

then his deeds; 40

Thy parcelling this power hath made it more.

As many sands as these my hands can hold,

Are but my handful of so many sands;
Then, all the world, and call it but a power,
Easily tane vp, and quickly throwne away: 45
But if I stand to count them sand by sand,
The number would confound my memorie,
And make a thousand millions of a taske,
Which briefelis is no more, indeed, then one.
These quarters, squadrons, and these rege-
ments, 50

Before, behinde vs, and on either hand,

Are but a power. When we name a man,

His hand, his foote, his head hath seuerall
strengthes;

And being al but one selfe instant strength,

Why, all this many, Audely, is but one, 55

And we can call it all but one mans strength.

He that hath farre to goe, tels it by miles;

If he should tell the steps, it kills his hart:

The drops are infinite, that make a floud, 59

And yet, thou knowest, we call it but a Raine.

There is but one Fraunce, one king of Fraunce,

That Fraunce hath no more kings; and that
same king

Hath but the puissant legion of one king,

And we haue one: then apprehend no ods,

For one to one is faire equalitie. 65

*Enter an Herald from king Iohn.**Pr.* What tidings, messenger? be playne
and brieue.*He.* The king of Fraunce, my soueraigne
Lord and master,

Greetes by me his fo, the Prince of Wals:

If thou call forth a hundred men of name,

Of Lords, Knights, Squires, and English gen-
tlemen, 70

And with thyselfe and those kneele at his feete,

He straight will fold his bloody collours vp,

And ransome shall redeeme liues forfeited;

If not, this day shall drinke more English blood,

Then ere was buried in our Bryttish earth. 75

What is the answer to his profered mercy?

Pr. This heauen, that couers Fraunce, con-
taines the mercy

That drawes from me submissiue orizons;

That such base breath should vanish from my
lips,

To vrge the plea of mercie to a man, 80

The Lord forbid! Returne, and tell the king,

My tongue is made of steele, and it shall beg

My mercie on his coward burget;

Tell him, my colours are as red as his,

My men as bold, our English armes as strong:

45 Is easily C 50 quarter'd squadrons C 61
and one king C 68 Greetes thus C: Greeteth Col.
70 Squires Q 2: Esquires Q 1 75 our Qq: your
conj. Col. 81 thej thy Q 2Scene IV. etc. add. C 3 To pay C 5 moths
D 26 pendants WP: pendant Qq: pendant
streamers C 28 sundy Q 1 30 two Qq

Returne him my defiance in his face. 86

He. I go. (Exit.)

Enter another (Herald).

Pr. What newes with thee?

He. The Duke of Normandie, my Lord & master,

Pitting thy youth is so ingirt with perill,
By me hath sent a nimble ioynted iennet, 90
As swift as euer yet thou didst bestride,
And therewithall he counsels thee to flie;
Els death himself hath sworne that thou shalt die.

P. Back with the beast vnto the beast that sent him!

Tell him I cannot sit a cowards horse; 95
Bid him to daie bestride the iade himselfe,
For I will staine my horse quite ore with bloud,
And double guild my spurs, but I will catch him;

So tell the carping boy, and get thee gone. (Exit Her.)

Enter another (Herald).

He. Edward of Wales, Phillip, the second sonne 100

To the most mightie christian king of France,
Seeing thy bodies liuing date expird,
All full of charitie and christian loue,
Commends this booke, full fraught with prayers,
To thy faire hand and for thy houre of lyfe
Intreats thee that thou meditate therein, 106
And arme thy soule for hir long iourney towards—

Thus haue I done his bidding, and returne.

Pr. Herald of Phillip, greet thy Lord from me:

All good that he can send, I can receiue; 110
But thinkst thou not, the vnaduis'd boy
Hath wrongd himselfe in thus far tendering me?

Happily he cannot praie without the booke—
I thinke him no diuine extemporall—
Then render backe this common place of prayer, 115

To do himselfe good in aduersitie;
Besides he knows not my sinnes qualitie,
And therefore knowes no praiers for my auaille;
Ere night his praier may be to praie to God,
To put it in my heart to heare his praier. 120
So tell the courtly wanton, and be gone.

He. I go. (Exit.)

87 S. D. Exit add. Q2 Herald add. C 99 carrying Q1 S. D. Bracketed words add. C 104 with holy prayers C 112 thus] this Q1 122 S. D. add. Q2

Pr. How confident their strength and number makes them!—

Now, Audley, sound those siluer winges of thine,

And let those milke white messengers of time
Shew thy times learning in this dangerous time. 126

Thyselfe art bruis'd and bit with many broiles,
And stratagems forepast with yron pens
Are texted in thine honorable face;
Thou art a married man in this distresse, 130
But danger woos me as a blushing maide:
Teach me an answer to this perillous time.

Aud. To die is all as common as to liue:
The one inch-wise, the other holds in chase;
For, from the instant we begin to liue, 135
We do pursue and hunt the time to die:
First bud we, then we blow, and after seed,
Then, presently, we fall; and, as a shade
Followes the bodie, so we follow death.

If, then, we hunt for death, why do we feare it?
If we feare it, why do we follow it? 141

If we do feare, how can we shun it?

If we do feare, with feare we do but aide

The thing we feare to seize on vs the sooner:

If wee feare not, then no resolu'd proffer 145

Can ouerthrow the limit of our fate;

For, whether ripe or rotten, drop we shall,

As we do drawe the lotterie of our doome.

Pr. Ah, good olde man, a thousand thousand armors

These wordes of thine haue buckled on my
backe: 150

Ah, what an idiot hast thou made of lyfe,
To seeke the thing it feares! and how disgrast
The imperiall victorie of murdring death,
Since all the liues his conquering arrowes
strike

Seeke him, and he not them, to shame his
glorie! 155

I will not giue a pennie for a lyfe,
Nor halfe a halfe-pennie to shun grim death,
Since for to liue is but to seeke to die,
And dying but beginning of new lyfe.

Let come the houre when he that rules it will!
To liue or die I hold indifferent. [Exeunt.]

(SCENE V.

The same. The French Camp.)

Enter king Iohn and Charles.

Ioh. A sodaine darknes hath defast the
skie,

The wineres are crept into their caues for feare,

124 winges] strings D 127 bruis'd C: busie Qq
129 texted Q2 134 inch-wise pr. ed.: in choice Qq,
etc. 142 om. C Scene V. etc. add. C

The leaues moue not, the world is husht and still,

The birds cease singing, and the wandring brookes

Murmure now wonted greeting to their shores;
Silence attends some wonder and expecteth
That heauen should pronounce some prophesie:

Where, or from whome, proceeds this silence, Charles?

Ch. Our men, with open mouthes and staring eyes,

Looke on each other, as they did attend
Each others wordes, and yet no creature speaks;

A tongue-tied feare hath made a midnight houre,

And speeches sleepe through all the waking regions.

Ioh. But now the pompeous Sunne, in all his pride,

Lookt through his golden coach vpon the worlde,

And, on a sodaine, hath he hid himselfe,
That now the vnder earth is as a graue,

Darke, deadly, silent, and vncomfortable.

[A clamor of rauens.

Harke, what a deadly outerie do I heare?

Ch. Here comes my brother Phillip.

Ioh. All dismaid: 20

(Enter Philip.)

What fearefull wordes are those thy lookes presage?

Ph. A flight, a flight!

Ioh. Coward, what flight? thou liest, there needs no flight.

Ph. A flight. 24

Kin. Awake thy crauen powers, and tell on
The substance of that verie feare in deed,

Which is so gastly printed in thy face:
What is the matter?

Ph. A flight of vgly rauens
Do croke and houer ore our souldiers heads,

And keepe in triangles and cornerd squares, 30
Right as our forces are imbattered;

With their approach there came this sodain fog,

Which now hath hid the airie floor of heauen
And made at noone a night vnnatural

Vpon the quaking and dismaid world: 35
In briebe, our souldiers haue let fall their

armes,
And stand like metamorphosd images,

3 wood conj. C 20, 21 All .. presage one line Q 1
S. D. add. C 22, 24, 28 Prefix Pr. Q 1 33 floor
C: flower Qq

Bloudlesse and pale, one gazing on another.

Io. I, now I call to mind the prophesie,
But I must giue no enternace to a feare.— 40
Returne, and harten vp these yeelding soules:
Tell them, the rauens, seeing them in armes,
So many faire against a famisht few,

Come but to dine vpon their handie worke
And praie vpon the carrion that they kill: 45

For when we see a horse laid downe to die,
Although (he be) not dead, the rauens birds

Sit watching the departure of his life;
Euen so these rauens for the carcasses

Of those poore English, that are markt to die,
Houer about, and, if they crie to vs, 51

Tis but for meate that we must kill for them.
Awaie, and comfort vp my souldiers,

And sound the trumpets, and at once dispatch
This litle busines of a silly fraude. [Exit Ph.

Another noise. Salisbury brought in by
a French Captaine.

Cap. Behold, my liege, this knight and
fortie mo, 56

Of whom the better part are slaine and fled,
With all indeuor sought to breake our rankes,

And make their waie to the incompast prince:
Dispose of him as please your maiestie. 60

Io. Go, & the next bough, souldier, that
thou seest,

Disgrace it with his bodie presently;
For I doo hold a tree in France too good

To be the gallowes of an English theefe.
Sa. My Lord of Normandie, I haue your

passe 65
And warrant for my safetie through this land.

Ch. Villiers procurd it for thee, did he not?
Sal. He did.

Ch. And it is curreant; thou shalt freely
passe.

K. Io. I, freely to the gallowes to be hangd,
Without denial or impediment. 71

Awaie with him!
Charles. I hope your highnes will not so

disgrace me,
And dash the vertue of my seale at armes:

He hath my neuer broken name to shew, 75
Carectred with this princely hande of mine;

And rather let me leaue to be a prince
Than break the stable verdict of a prince:

I doo beseech you, let him passe in quiet.
Ki. Thou and thy word lie both in my com-

mand; 80
What canst thou promise that I cannot breake?

41 those Q 2, C 47 he be add. C 55 S. D. Exit
Pr. Q 1 63 Eor Q 1 The rest of the play is lacking

in the Bodleian copy of Q 1: the text from 64 on is based
on the copy in Trin. Coll. Camb. 70 Prefix En:

Io Q 1 73 Prefix Charles Q 2: Vil. Q 1

Which of these twaine is greater infamie,
To disobey thy father or thy selfe?
Thy word, nor no mans, may exceed his power;
Nor that same man doth neuer breake his
worde, 85

That keeps it to the vtmost of his power.
The breach of faith dwels in the soules con-
sent:

Which if thy selfe without consent doo breake,
Thou art not charged with the breach of faith
Go, hang him: for thy lisencc lies in mee, 90
And my constraint stands the excuse for thee.

Ch. What, am I not a soldier in my word?
Then, armes, adieu, and let them fight that
list!

Shall I not giue my girdle from my wast,
But with a gardion I shall be controld, 95
To saie I may not giue my things awaie?
Vpon my soule, had Edward, prince of Wales,
Ingagde his word, writ downe his noble hand
For all your knights to passe his fathers land,
The roiall king, to grace his warlike sonne, 100
Would not alone safe conduct giue to them,
But with all bountie feasted them and theirs.

Kin. Dwelst thou on presidents? Then be
it so!

Say, Englishman, of what degree thou art.

Sa. An Earle in England, though a prisoner
here, 105

And those that knowe me, call me Salisburie.

Kin. Then, Salisburie, say whether thou art
bound.

Sa. To Callice, where my liege, king
Edward, is.

Kin. To Callice, Salisburie? Then to
Callice packe,

And bid the king prepare a noble graue, 110
To put his princely sonne, blacke Edward, in.
And as thou trauest westward from this place,
Some two leagues hence there is a loftie hill,
Whose top seemes toplesse, for the imbracing
skie

Doth hide his high head in her azure bosome;
Vpon whose tall top when thy foot attaines, 116
Looke backe vpon the humble vale beneath—
Humble of late, but now made proud with
armes—

And thence behold the wretched prince of
Wales,

Hoopt with a bond of yron round about. 120
After which sight, to Callice spurre amaine,
And saie, the prince was smothered and not
slaine:

And tell the king this is not all his ill;
For I will greet him, ere he thinkes I will.

Awaie, be gone; the smoake but of our shot 125
Will choake our foes, though bullets hit them
not. [Exit.

⟨SCENE VI.

The same. A Part of the Field of Battle.)

Allarum. Enter prince Edward and Artoys.

Art. How fares your grace? are you not
shot, my Lord?

Pri. No, deare Artoys; but choakt with
dust and smoake,

And stept aside for breath and fresher aire.

Art. Breath, then, and too it againe: the
amazed French

Are quite distract with gazing on the crows;
And, were our quiuers full of shafts againe, 6
Your grace should see a glorious day of this:—
O, for more arrowes, Lord; thats our want.

Pri. Courage, Artoys! a fig for feathered
shafts,

When feathered foules doo bandie on our side!
What need we fight, and sweate, and keepe a
coile, 11

When railing crows outcolde our aduer-
saries?

Vp, vp, Artoys! the ground it selfe is armd
(With) Fire containing flint; command our
bowes

To hurle awaie their pretie colored Ew, 15
And to it with stones: awaie, Artoys, awaie!
My soule doth prophesie we win the daie.

[Exeunt.

⟨SCENE VII.

The same. Another Part of the Field of
Battle.)

Allarum. Enter king Iohn.

⟨*K. Iohn.*⟩ Our multitudes are in themselves
confounded,

Dismayed, and distraught; swift starting feare
Hath buzd a cold dismaie through all our
armie,

And errie pettie disaduantage promptes
The feare possessed abiect soul to flie. 5

My selfe, whose spirit is steele to their dull
lead,

What with recalling of the prophesie,
And that our natiue stones from English armes
Rebell against vs, finde myselfe attainted
With strong surprise of weake and yeelding
feare. 10

Enter Charles.

⟨*Charles.*⟩ Fly, father, flie! the French do
kill the French,

102 bounty'd conj. *Elze* 116 Vpon] Unto conj. *C*
117 below *C* 120 bond *Q1*: band *Q2*, etc.

Scene VI. etc. add. *C* 14 With add. *C* Scene
VII. etc. add. *WP* 1, 11 Prefix add. *Q2*

Some that would stand let driue at some that
 flie;
 Our drums strike nothing but discouragement,
 Our trumpets sound dishonor and retire;
 The spirit of feare, that feareth nought but
 death, 15
 Cowardly workes confusion on it selfe.

Enter Phillip.

(*Phil.*) Plucke out your eies, and see not
 this daies shame!

An arme hath beate an armie; one poore
 Dauid

Hath with a stone foild twentie stout Goliaths;
 Some twentie naked staruelings with small
 flints, 20

Hath driuen backe a puisant host of men,
 Araid and fenst in all accomplements.

Ioh. Mordiu, they quait at vs, and kill vs
 vp;

No lesse than fortie thousand wicked elders
 Haue fortie leane slaues this daie stoned to
 death. 25

Ch. O, that I were some other countryman!
 This daie hath set derision on the French,
 And all the world will blurt and scorne at vs.

Kin. What, is there no hope left?

Phil. No hope, but death, to burie vp our
 shame. 30

Ki. Make vp once more with me; the twen-
 tith part

Of those that liue, are men inow to quaille
 The feeble handfull on the aduerse part.

Ch. Then charge againe: if heauen be not
 opposd,

We cannot loose the daie. 35

Kin. On, awaie! [*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE VIII.

The same. Another Part of the Field of Battle.)

*Enter Audley, wounded, & rescued by two
 squirs.*

Esq. How fares my Lord?

Aud. Euen as a man may do,
 That dines at such a bloudie feast as this.

Esq. I hope, my Lord, that is no mortall
 scarre.

Aud. No matter, if it be; the count is cast,
 And, in the worst, ends but a mortall man. 5

Good friends, conuey me to the princely
 Edward,

That in the crimson brauerie of my bloud

I may become him with saluting him.
 Ile smile, and tell him, that this open scarre
 Doth end the haruest of his Audleys warre. 10
 [*Ex.*]

(SCENE IX.

The same. The English Camp.)

*Enter prince Edward, king Iohn, Charles, and
 all, with Ensignes spread.*

Retreat sounded.

Pri. Now, Iohn in France, & lately Iohn of
 France,

Thy bloudie Ensignes are my captiue colours;
 And you, high vantage Charles of Normandie,
 That once to daie sent me a horse to flie,
 Are now the subiects of my clemencie. 5

Fie, Lords, is it not a shame that English boies,
 Whose early daies are yet not worth a beard,
 Should in the bosome of your kindome thus,
 One against twentie, beate you vp together?

Kin. Thy fortune, not thy force, hath con-
 querd vs. 10

Pri. An argument that heauen aides the
 right.

Enter Artoys with Phillip.)

See, see, Artoys doth bring with him along
 The late good counsell giuer to my soule.
 Welcome, Artoys; and welcome, Phillip, to:
 Who now of you or I haue need to praie? 15
 Now is the prouerbe veriefed in you,
 'Too bright a morning breeds a louring daie.'

Sound Trumpets. Enter Audley.

But say, what grym discouragement comes
 heere!

Alas, what thousand armed men of Fraunce
 Haue writ that note of death in Audleys
 face? 20

Speake, thou that woost death with thy care-
 les smile,

And lookst so merrily vpon thy graue,
 As if thou wert enamored on thyne end:
 What hungry sword hath so bereaued thy face,
 And lopt a true friend from my louing soule?

Au. O Prince, thy sweet bemoaning speech
 to me 26

Is as a morneful knell to one dead sicke.

Pri. Deare Audley, if my tongue ring out
 thy end,

My armes shalbe thy graue: what may I do
 To win thy life, or to reuenge thy death? 30
 If thou wilt drinke the blood of captyue kings,
 Or that it were restoritue, command

17 *Phil. add. Q 2* 21 *Haue Q 2, etc.* 22 *ac-*
countrements WP 23 *quoit C* 28 *wilt Q 1* 30
Phil. Q 2, etc. : Pr. Q 1 Scene VIII. *etc. add. WP*
S. D. squirs Q 1 : Esquires Q 2

Scene IX. *WP.* Scene VII. *C* The . . . Camp *add. C*
 5 (?) *subiect* 11 *S. D. add. C* 23 *thyne Q 1 : thy*
 Q 2 24 *bewreath'd Col.* 29 *thy Q 2 : the Q 1*

A Health of kings blood, and Ile drinke to thee;
If honor may dispence for thee with death,
The neuer dying honor of this daie 35
Share wholie, Audley, to thy selfe, and liue.

Aud. Victorious Prince,—that thou art so,
behold

A Cæsars fame in kings captiuitie—
If I could hold dym death but at a bay,
Till I did see my liege thy royall father, 40
My soule should yeeld this Castle of my flesh,
This mangled tribute, with all willingnes,
To darkenes, consummation, dust, and
Wormes.

Pr. Cheerely, bold man, thy soule is all to
proud

To yeeld her Citie for one little breach; 45
Should be diuorced from her earthly spouse
By the soft temper of a French mans sword?
Lo, to repaire thy life, I giue to thee
Three thousand Marks a yeere in English land.

Au. I take thy gift, to pay the debts I owe:
These two poore Esquires redeemd me from the
French 51

With lusty & deer hazzard of their liues:
What thou hast giuen me, I giue to them;
And, as thou louest me, Prince, lay thy con-
sent

To this bequeath in my last testament. 55

Pr. Renowned Audley, liue, and haue from
mee

This gift twice doubled to these Esquires and
thee:

But liue or die, what thou hast giuen away
To these and theirs shall lasting freedome stay.
Come, gentlemen, I will see my friend
bestowed 60

With in an easie Litter; then wele march
Proudly toward Callis, with tryumphant pace,
Vnto my royall father, and there bring
The tribut of my wars, faire Fraunce his king.

[*Ex.*

(ACT V.

Picardy. The English Camp before Calais.)

*Enter King Edward, Queen Phillip, Derby,
soldiers.*

Ed. No more, Queene Phillip, pacifie your
selfe;

Copland, except he can excuse his fault,
Shall finde displeasure written in our lookes.
And now vnto this proud resisting towne!
Souldiers, assault; I will no longer stay, 5
To be deluded by their false delaies;

Put all to sword, and make the spoyle your
owne.

*Enter sixe Citizens in their Shirts, bare foote,
with halters about their necks.*

All. Mercy, king Edward, mercie, gracious
Lord!

Ki. Contemptuous villaines, call ye now
for truce?

Mine eares are stopt against your bootelesse
cryes:— 10

Sound, drums allarum; draw threatning
swords!

1. *Cit.* Ah, noble Prince, take pittie on this
towne,

And heare vs, mightie king:
We claime the promise that your highnes
made;

The two daies respit is not yet expirde, 15
And we are come with willingnes to beare

What tortering death or punishment you
please,

So that the trembling multitude be saued.

Ki. My promise? Well, I do confesse as
much:

But I require the cheefest Citizens 20
And men of most account that should submit;

You, peraduenture, are but seruile groomes,
Or some felonious robbers on the Sea,

Whome, apprehended, law would execute,
Albeit severity lay dead in vs: 25

No, no, ye cannot ouerreach vs thus.

Two. The Sun, dread Lord, that in the
western fall

Beholds vs now low brought through miserie,
Did in the Orient purple of the morne

Salute our comming forth, when we were
knowne; 30

Or may our portion be with damned fiends.

Ki. If it be so, then let our couenant stand:

We take possession of the towne in peace,
But, for your selues, looke ye for no remorse;

But, as imperiall iustice hath decreed, 35
Your bodies shalbe dragd about these wals,
And after feele the stroake of quartering steele:

This is your dome;—go, souldiers, see it done.

Qu. Ah, be more milde vnto these yeelding
men!

It is a glorious thing to stablish peace, 40
And kings approch the nearest vnto God

By giuing life and safety vnto men:
As thou intendest to be king of Fraunce,

So let her people liue to call thee king;

7 *S. D. precedes* Enter King Edward, etc. *Q 1: corr.*
Q 2 11 allarum printed as *S. D. by C, etc.* 12 1. *Cit.*
WP: All Qq 20 requir'd conj. *C* 31 friends *C*
44 her *Q 1: thy Q 2*

33 Heath *Qq* 40 royal *C: loyall Qq* 46 She'ld
D 51, 57 Esquires *Qq: Squires C, etc.* Act 7.
etc. add. *C*

For what the sword cuts down or fire hath
spoyld, 45

Is held in reputation none of ours.

Ki. Although experience teach vs this is
true,

That peacefull quietnes brings most delight,

When most of all abuses are contold;

Yet, insomuch it shalbe knowne that we 50

As well can master our affections

As conquer other by the dynt of sword,

Phillip, preuaile; we yeld to thy request:

These men shall liue to boast of clemencie,

And, tyrannie, strike terror to thy selfe. 55

Two. Long liue your highnes! happy be
your reigne!

Ki. Go, get you hence, returne vnto the
towne,

And if this kindnes hath deserud your loue,

Learne then to reuerence Edward as your
king.— [*Ex. (Citizens).*]

Now, might we heare of our affaires abroad, 60

We would, till glomy Winter were ore spent,

Dispose our men in garrison a while.

But who comes heere?

Enter Copland and King Dauid.

De(r). Copland, my Lord, and Dauid, King
of Scots.

Ki. Is this the proud presumtious Esquire
of the North, 65

That would not yeld his prisoner to my Queen?

Cop. I am, my liege, a Northern Esquire
indeed,

But neither proud nor insolent, I trust.

Ki. What moude thee, then, to be so
obstinate

To contradict our royall Queenes desire? 70

Co. No wilfull disobedience, mightie Lord,

But my desert and publike law at armes:

I tooke the king my selfe in single fight,

And, like a souldier, would be loath to loose

The least preheminece that I had won. 75

And Copland straight vpon your highnes
charge

Is come to Fraunce, and with a lowly minde

Doth vale the bonnet of his victory:

Receiue, dread Lorde, the custome of my
fraught,

The wealthie tribute of my laboring hands, 80

Which should long since haue been surrendred
vp,

Had but your gracious selfe bin there in place.

Q. But, Copland, thou didst scorne the kings
command,

59 Edward Q 2: Edw. Q 1 64 Sots Q 2 65
Esq Q 2: Squire C 67 Northern Q 2 Squire C
72 at Q 1: of Q 2, etc.

Neglecting our commission in his name.

Cop. His name I reuerence, but his person
more; 85

His name shall keepe me in alleagaunce still,
But to his person I will bend my knee.

King. I praie thee, Phillip, let displeasure
passe;

This man doth please mee, and I like his words:

For what is he that will attempt great deeds, 90

And loose the glory that ensues the same?

All riuers haue recourse vnto the Sea,

And Coplands faith relation to his king.

Kneele, therefore, downe: now rise, king

Edwards knight;

And, to maintayne thy state, I freely giue 95

Fiue hundred marks a yeere to thee and thine.

Enter Salisbury.

Welcome, Lord Salisburie: what news from
Brittaine?

Sa. This, mightie king: the Country we haue
won,

And Iohn de Mountford, regent of that place,

Presents your highnes with this Coronet, 100

Protesting true alleagaunce to your Grace.

Ki. We thanke thee for thy seruice, valient
Earle;

Challenge our fauour, for we owe it thee.

Sa. But now, my Lord, as this is ioyful
newes,

So must my voice be tragicall againe, 105

And I must sing of dolefull accidents.

Ki. What, haue our men the ouerthrow at
Poitiers?

Or is our sonne beset with too much odds?

Sa. He was, my Lord: and as my worth-
lesse selfe

With fortie other seruiceable knights, 110

Vnder safe conduct of the Dolphins seale,

Did trauaile that way, finding him distrest,

A troupe of Launces met vs on the way,

Surprisd, and brought vs prisoners to the king,

Who, proud of this, and eager of reuenge, 115

Commanded straight to cut of all our heads:

And surely we had died, but that the Duke,

More full of honor then his angry syre,

Procured our quicke deliuerance from thence;

But, ere we went, 'Salute your king', quoth
hee, 120

'Bid him provide a funerall for his sonne:

To day our sword shall cut his thred of life;

And, sooner then he thinkes, wele be with
him,

To quittance those displeasures he hath done.'

This said, we past, not daring to reply; 125

90 great Qq: high C S. D. after 97 Q 1 99
John C: Charles Qq 108 our Qq: my C

Our harts were dead, our lookes diffusd and wan.

Wandering, at last we clymd vnto a hill,
From whence, although our grieve were much before,

Yet now to see the occasion with our eies
Did thrice so much increase our heauines: 130
For there, my Lord, oh, there we did descry
Downe in a vallie how both armies laie.
The French had cast their trenches like a ring,

And euery Barricados open front 134
Was thicke imbost with brasen ordynaunce;
Heere stood a battaile of ten thousand horse,
There twice as many pikes in quadrant wise,
Here Crosbowes, and deadly wounding darts:
And in the midst, like to a slender poynt
Within the compasse of the horison, 140
As twere a rising bubble in the sea,
A Hasle wand amidst a wood of Pynes,
Or as a beare fast chaind vnto a stake,
Stood famous Edward, still expecting when
Those doggs of Fraunce would fasten on his flesh. 145

Anon the death procuring knell begins:
Off goe the Cannons, that with trembling noyse
Did shake the very Mountayne where they stood;

Then sound the Trumpets clangor in the aire,
The battailes ioyne: and, when we could no more 150

Discerne the difference twixt the friend and fo,
So intricate the darke confusion was,
Away we turnd our watrie eies with sighs,
As blacke as powder fuming into smoke.
And thus, I feare, vnhappy haue I told 155
The most vntimely tale of Edwards fall.

Qu. Ah me, is this my welcome into Fraunce?

Is this the comfort that I lookt to haue,
When I should meete with my belouoed sonne?
Sweete Ned, I would thy mother in the sea 160
Had been preuented of this mortall grieve!

Ki. Content thee, Phillip; tis not teares will serue

To call him backe, if he be taken hence:
Comfort thy selfe, as I do, gentle Queene,
With hope of sharpe, vnheard of, dyre reuenge.— 165

He bids me to prouide his funerall,
And so I will; but all the Peeres in Fraunce
Shall mourners be, and weepe out bloody teares,

Vntill their emptie vaines be drie and sere:

138 and *Q1*: arm'd with C 148 they] we conj. C
149 clangors C

The pillars of his hearse shall be his bones; 170
The mould that couers him, their Citie ashes;
His knell, the groning cryes of dying men;
And, in the stead of tapers on his tombe,
An hundred fiftie towers shall burning blaze,
While we bewaile our valiant sonnes decease.

After a flourish, sounded within, enter an herald.

He. Reioyce, my Lord; ascend the imperial throne! 176

The mightie and redoubted prince of Wales,
Great seruitor to bloudie Mars in armes,
The French mans terror, and his countries fame,

Triumphant rideth like a Romane peere, 180
And, lowly at his stirop, comes afoot
King Iohn of France, together with his sonne,
In captiue bonds; whose diadem he brings
To crowne thee with, and to proclaime thee king.

Ki. Away with mourning, Phillip, wipe thine eies;— 185

Sound, Trumpets, welcome in Plantaginet!

Enter Prince Edward, king Iohn, Phillip, Audley, Artoys.

Ki. As things long lost, when they are found again,
So doth my sonne reioyce his fathers heart,
For whom euen now my soule was much perplext.

Q. Be this a token to expresse my ioy, 190
[*kisse him.*

For inward passions will not let me speake.

Pr. My gracious father, here receiue the gift,

(*Presenting him with K. Iohn's crown.*)

This wreath of conquest and reward of warre,
Got with as mickle perill of our liues,
As ere was thing of price before this daie; 195
Install your highnes in your proper right:
And, heerewithall, I render to your hands
These prisoners, chiefe occasion of our strife.

Kin. So, Iohn of France, I see you keepe your word;

You promist to be sooner with our selfe 200
Then we did thinke for, and tis so in deed:
But, had you done at first as now you do,
How many ciuill townes had stooode vntought,
That now are turnd to ragged heaps of stones!
How many peoples liues mightst thou haue saud, 205

That are vntimely sunke into their graues!

170 his bones (*K. Iohn's Qg*: their bones *D* 171
city's Col. 174 fiftie] lofty Col. *S. D.* Printed as
part of preceding speech *Q1* 192 *S. D.* add. *D* 202
you . . . you *Q1*: ye . . . ye *Q2* 205 might you *Q2*

Io. Edward, recount not things irreuocable;
Tell me what ransome thou requirest to haue.

Kin. Thy ransome, Iohn, hereafter shall
be known:

But first to England thou must crosse the seas,
To see what intertainment it affords; 211
How ere it fals, it cannot be so bad,
As'ours hath bin since we ariude in France.

Ioh. Accursed man! of this I was fortolde,
But did misconster what the prophet told. 215

Pri. Now, father, this petition Edward
makes

To thee, whose grace hath bin his strongest
shield,

That, as thy pleasure chose me for the man
To be the instrument to shew thy power,
So thou wilt grant that many princes more, 220
Bred and brought vp within that little Isle,
May still be famous for lyke victories!

And, for my part, the bloudie scars I beare,
The wearie nights that I haue watcht in field,
The dangerous conflicts I haue often had, 225
The fearefull menaces were proffered me,

The heate and cold and what else might dis-
please:

I wish were now redoubled twentie fold,
So that hereafter ages, when they reade
The painfull traffike of my tender youth, 230
Might thereby be inflamd with such resolute,
As not the territories of France alone,
But likewise Spain, Turkie, and what coun-
tries els

That iustly would prouoke faire Englands ire,
Might, at their presence, tremble and retire. 235

Kin. Here, English Lordes, we do pro-
claime a rest,

An intercession of our painfull armes:
Sheath vpyourswords, refresh your weary lims,
Peruse your spoiles; and, after we haue breathd
A daie or two within this hauen towne, 240
God willing, then for England wele be shipt;
Where, in a happie houre, I trust, we shall
Ariue, three kings, two princes, and a queene.

FINIS.

337 An] And D interceasing Q 2, etc.

A
Most pleasant Co-
medie of *Mucedorus* the kings
sonne of *Valentia* and *Amiradine*
the Kings daughter of *Arragon*,
with the merie conceites
of *Moufe*.

Newly set forth, as it hath bin
sundrie times plaide in the ho-
norable Cutse of London.

Very delectable and full
of mirth.



LONDON
Printed for *William Iones*, dwel-
ling at Holborne conduit, at
the signe of the Gunne.
1598.

<i>Q 1</i>	=	Quarto of 1598
<i>Q 2</i>	=	" " 1606
<i>Q 3</i>	=	" " 1610
<i>Q 4</i>	=	" " 1611
<i>Q 5</i>	=	" " 1613
<i>Q 6</i>	=	" " 1615
<i>Q 7</i>	=	" " 1618
<i>Q 8</i>	=	" " 1619
<i>Q 9</i>	=	" " 1621
<i>Q 10</i>	=	" " 1626
<i>Q 11</i>	=	" " 1631
<i>Q 12</i>	=	" " 1634
<i>Q 13</i>	=	" " 1639
<i>Q 14</i>	=	" " 1663
<i>Q 15</i>	=	" " 1668
<i>Q 16</i>	=	undated quarto
<i>Q 17</i>	=	Quarto with missing title page
<i>Col.</i>	=	Collier, 1824
<i>T</i>	=	Tyrrell, 1851
<i>Haz.</i>	=	Hazlitt's Dodsley 1874-6
<i>D</i>	=	Delius, 1874
<i>WP</i>	=	Warnke and Proescholdt, 1878
<i>Wag.</i>	=	Wagner : textual conjectures in Jahrbuch XI. and XIV.
<i>Elze</i>	=	Elze in Jahrbuch XV. and Notes on Eliz. Dramatists.
<i>pr. ed.</i>	=	present editor

A MOST PLEASANT COMEDIE OF
MVCEDORVS THE KINGS SONNE OF VALENTIA,
 AND **AMADINE, THE KINGS DAUGHTER OF ARRAGON**

[THE PROLOGVE.]

Most sacred Maiestie, whose great desertes
 Thy Subiect England, nay, the World, admires:
 Which Heauen graunt still increase: O may
 your Prayse,
 Multiplying with your houres, your Fame
 still rayse;
 Embrace your Counsell; Loue, with Fayth,
 them guide,
 That both, as one, bench by each others side.
 So may your life passe on and runne so euen,
 That your firme zeale plant you a Throne in
 Heauen,

Where smiling Angels shall your guardians
 bee
 From blemisht Traytors, stayn'd with Periurie:
 And as the night's inferiour to the day,
 So be all earthly Regions to your sway.
 Be as the Sunne to Day, the Day to Night;
 For, from your Beames, Europe shall borrow
 light.
 Mirth drowne your boosome, faire Delight
 your minde,
 And may our Pastime your Contentment finde
Exit]

(DRAMATIS PERSONAE.)

Eight persons¹ may easily play it.
The King and } } for one.
Rombelo. }
(King Valencia, } } for one.)²
Mucedorus the prince } } for one.
of Valencia. }
(Anselmo, } } for one.)²
Amadine the Kinges } } for one.
daughter of Arragon. }

Segasto a Noble } } for one.
man. }
Enuie: Tremelio a Captaine: } } for one.
Bremo a wilde man. }
Comedy, a boy, an ould woman, } } for one.
Ariena Amadines maide. }
Collen a Counseller, } } for one.
A messenger. }
Mouse the Clowne. } } for one.

(INDUCTION.)

*Enter Comedie ioyfull with a garland of
 baies on her head.*

WHY so! thus doe I hope to please:
 Musicke reuiues, and mirth is tollerable,
 Comedie, play thy part and please,
 Mak merry them that come to ioy with thee:
 Ioy, then, good gentilles; I hope to make you
 laugh.
 Sound forth *Bellonas* siluer tuned strings.
 Time fits vs well, the daie and place is ours.

*Enter Enuie, his armes naked, besmearde
 with bloud.*

En. Nay, staie, minion, there lies a block.
 What, al on mirth! Ile interrupt your tale
 And mixe your musicke with a tragick end. 10
Co. What monstrous vgly hagge is this,
 That dares comtrowle the pleasures of our will?

Vaunt, churlish curre, besmearde with gorie
 bloud,
 That seemst to check the blossoms of de-
 light,
 And stifle the sound of sweete *Bellonas* breath:
 Blush, monster, blush, and post away with
 shame,
 That seekest disturbance of a goddesse deedes.
En. Post hence thy selfe, thou counter-
 checking trul;
 I will possesse this habite, spite of thee,
 And gaine the glorie of thy wished porte: 20
 Ile thunder musicke shall appale the nimphes,
 And make them sheuer their clattering strings:
 Flying for succour to their dankish caues.
Sound drumes within and crie, 'stab! stab!'
 Hearken, thou shalt hear a noise
 Shall fill the aire with a shrilling sound, 25
 And thunder musicke to the gods aboute:

Prologue add. Q 3 6 as *Q 3*: at *Haz.* ¹ Ten
 persons *Q 3* ² *Add. Q 3* Induction *add. WP*
S. D. ioyfull *Q 1*: ioyfully *Q 3*, etc. 8 stay, minion,
 stay *Q 8*, etc. .

15 stiffe *Q 1*: stiffe *Q 3*: still *Q 11* bearth *Q 3* 17
 deedes *Q 1-5*: name *Q 6*, etc.: fame *com.* *Wag.* 20 thy
Q 1-6: this *Q 8*, etc. 22 shiuer *Q 3*, etc. 23 dankish
Col., *Elze*: dancs *Q 1*: Danish *Q 3*, etc.: darkest *com.*
pr. ed. 24 a om. *Q 8*, etc. 26 the om. *Q 4*

Mars shall himselfe breathe downe
A peerelesse crowne vpon braue enuies head,
And raise his chiuall with a lasting fame.
In this braue musicke *Enuie* takes delight, 30
Where I may see them wallow in there blood,
To spurne at armes and legges quite shiuered
off,

And heare the cries of many thousand slaine.
How likst thou this, my trull? this sport alone
for mee!

Co. Vaunt, bloodie curre, nurst vp with
tygers sapp, 35
That so dost seeke to quail a womans minde.
Comedie is mild, gentle, willing for to please,
And seekes to gaine the loue of all estates:
Delighting in mirth, mixt all with louely tales,
And bringeth things with treble ioy to passe. 40
Thou, bloodie, Enuious, disdainer of mens ioye,
Whose name is fraught with bloodie strata-
games,

Delights in nothing but in spoyle and death,
Where thou maist trample in their luke warme
blood,

And graspe their hearts within thy cursed
pawes: 45

Yet vaile thy mind, reuenge thou not on mee;
A silly woman begs it at thy hands:

Giue me the leaue to vtter out my play,
Forbeare this place, I humblie craue thee:
hence,

And mixe not death amongst pleasing come-
dies, 50

That treats naught els but pleasure and delight.
If any sparke of humane rests in thee,
Forbeare, be gon, tender the suite of mee.

En. Why so I wil; forbearance shall be such
As treble death shall crosse thee with de-
spight, 55

And make thee mourne where most thou ioiest,
Turning thy mirth into a deadly dole,
Whirling thy pleasures with a peale of death,
And drench thy methodes in a sea of blood:
This will I doe, thus shall I beare with thee; 60
And more to vex thee with a deeper spite,
I will with threats of blood begin thy play,
Fauoring thee with enuie and with hate.

Co. Then, vglie monster, doe thy woorst,
I will defend them in despite of thee: 65
And though thou thinkst with tragick fumes
To braue my play vnto my deepe disgrace,
I force it not, I scorne what thou canst doe;
Ile grace it so, thy selfe shall it confesse

27 breathe] reach conj. Way. 28 crowne Q 1
29 chiuall Qy: rival conj. Way. 34 tis sport Q 8.
etc. 46 thou Q 1-3: thee Q 4, etc. 58 pleasures]
measures Elze 59 methodes] metres Elze 66
though] thought Q 1, 67 braue Q 1: praue Q 3-6:
hroue Q 8, etc.

From tragick stuffe to be a pleasant comedie.

En. Why then, *Comedie*, send thy actors
forth 71

And I will crosse the first steps of their tread:
Making them feare the verie dart of death.

Co. And Ile defend them maugre all thy
spite:

So, vgly fiend, farewell, till time shall serue, 75
That we may meete to parle for the best.

En. Content, *Comedie*; ile goe spread my
branch,

And scattered blossomes from mine enuious
tree

Shall proue to monsters, spoiling of their ioyes.
Exit.

[(ACT I.

SCENE I.

Valentia. The Court.)

*Sound. Enter Mucedorus and Anselmo
his friend.*

Muced. Anselmo.

Ansel. My Lord and friend.

Muc. True, my Anselmo, both thy Lord
and friend

Whose deare affections boosome with my
heart,

And keepe their domination in one orbe. 5

Ans. Whence neare disloyaltie shall roote
it forth,

But fayth plant firmer in your choyse respect.

Muc. Much blame were mine, if I should
other deeme,

Nor can coy Fortune contrary allow:

But, my Anselmo, loth I am to say 10

I must estrange that frendship—

Misconstrue not, tis from the Realme, not
thee:

Though Landes part Bodies, Heartes keepe
companie.

Thou knowst that I imparted often haue

Priuate relations with my royall Sire, 15

Had as concerning beautilous Amadine,

Rich Aragons bright Iewell, whose face (some
say)

That blooming Lillies neuer shone so gay,
Excelling, not exceld: yet least Report

Does mangle Veritie, boasting of what is not, 20
Wing'd with Desire, thither Ile straight repaire,

71 thy] the Q 11: now thy WP 72 tread Q 1:
trade Q 3, etc. 75 farewell, till Q 3, etc.: farewell,
tell Q 1 79 to Q 1: two Q 3, etc. their Qy: thy D
Act I, Sc. I-II add. Q 3 S. D. Act I, Scene I Acts and
scenes first indicated WP: indications of place add. pr.
ed. 3 om. Q 5-16 10, 11 One line Q 3, etc. 11
estrange Q 3: enlarge Q 14-16 that] thy Q 16
20 Veritie] virtue Col.

And be my Fortunes, as my Thoughts are, faire.

Ans. Will you forsake Valencia, leaue the Court,

Absent you from the eye of Soueraigntie?

Do not, sweete Prince, aduenture on that taske, 25

Since danger lurkes each where: be wonne from it.

Mu. Desist dissuasion,
My resolution brookes no batterie;
Therefore, if thou retainest thy wonted forme,
Assist what I intend. 30

Ans. Your misdeeds will breed a blemish in the Court,

And throw a frostie deaw vpon that Beard,
Whose front Valencia stoopes to.

Mu. If thou my welfare tender, then no more;

Let Loues strong Magicke charme thy triuiall phrase, 35

Wasted as vainely as to gripe the Sunne:

Augment not then more answers; locke thy lippes,

Vnlesse thy wisdome suite me with disguise,
According to my purpose.

Ans. That action craues no counsell, 40

Since what you rightly are will more commaund,
Then best vsurped shape.

Mu. Thou still art opposite in disposition:
A more obscure seruile habillament

Beseemes this enterprise. 45

Ans. Then like a Florentine or Mountebanke?

Mu. Tis much too tedious; I dislike thy iudgement:

My minde is grafted on an humbler stocke.

Ans. Within my Closet does there hang a Cassocke,

Though base the weede is; 'twas a Shepheards, 50

Which I presented in Lord Iulios Maske.

Mu. That, my Anselmo, and none else but that,

Maske Mucedorus from the vulgar view!
That habite suites my minde; fetch me that weede.

[*Exit Anselmo.*]

Better then Kinges haue not disdained that state, 55

And much inferiour, to obtaine their mate.

Enter Anselmo with a Shepheards coate.

So!

Let our respect commaund thy secrecie.

50 shepherd's once Way. 57, 58 One line Q 3, etc.

At once a briefe farewell:

Delay to louers is a second hell. 60

[*Exit Mucedorus.*]

Ans. Prosperitie forerunne thee; Aucward chance

Neuer be neighbour to thy wishes venture:

Content and Fame aduance thee; euer thriue,

And Glory thy mortalitie suruiue. [*Exit.*]

(SCENE II.

A Forest in Arragon.)

Enter Mouse with a bottle of Hay.

Mous. Oh horrible, terrible! Was euer poore Gentleman so scard out of his seauen Senses? A Beare? nay, sure it cannot be a Beare, but some Diuell in a Beares Doublet: for a Beare could neuer haue had that agilitie to haue frightened me. Well, Ile see my Father hang'd, before Ile serue his Horse any more: Well, Ile carry home my Bottle of Hay, and for once make my Fathers Horse turne Puritane and obserue Fasting dayes, for he gets not a bit. But soft! this way she followed me, therefore Ile take the other Path; and because Ile be sure to haue an eye on him, I will take handes with some foolish Creditor, and make euery step backward. 15

As he goes backwards the Beare comes in, and he tumbles ouer her, and runnes away and leaues his bottle of Hay behind him.]

(SCENE III. *The same.*)

Enter Segasto runing and Amadine after him, being persued with a beare.

Se. Oh fly, Madam, fly or els we are but dead.

Ama. Help, *Segasto*, help! help, sweet *Segasto*, or els I die.

(*Seg.*) Alas, madam, there is no way but flight; Then hast and saue your selfe.

Segasto runnes away.

Ama. Why then I die; ah helpe me in distress! 5

Enter Mucedorus like a shepherd with a sworde drawne and a beares head in his hande.

Mu. Stay, Lady, stay, and be no more dismaide.

That cruell beast most merceslesse and fell,
Which hath bereaued thousands of their liues,
Afrighted many with his hard pursues,

Scene II. WP A Forest, etc. add. pr. ed. 13 on him Q 3-4: to him Q 5-6: to her Q 8, etc.: on her Col. take Q 3-8: shake Q 11, etc. Scene III. WP 1 are art Q 1 2 ele Q 1 4 S. D. after 2 Qq 8 Which] That Q 8 hath Q 3, etc.: haue Q 1 9 pursuists WP

Prying from place to place to find his praie, 10
Prolonging thus his life by others death,
His carcassee now lies headlesse, void of breth.

Ama. That fowle deformed monster, is he dead?

Mu. Assure your selfe thereof, behould his head:

Which if it please you, Lady, to accept, 15
With willing heart I yeeld it to your maiestie.

Ama. Thanks, worthy shepheard, thanks a thousand times.

This gift, assure thy selfe, contents me more
Then greatest bountie of a mighty prince,
Although he were the monarch of the world.

Mu. Most gracious goddesses, more then mortal wight, 21

Your heauenly hewe of right imports no lesse,
Most glad am I in that it was my chance

To vndertake this enterprise in hand,
Which doth so greatly glad your princely minde. 25

Ama. No goddesses, shepheard, but a mortall wight,

A mortall wight distressed as thou seest:
My father heere is king of Arragon.

I *Amadine* his only daughter am,
And after him sole heire vnto the crowne. 30

Now, where as it is my fathers will
To mary me vnto *Segasto*, on(e),

Whose welth through fathers former vsury
Is knowne to be no lesse then woonderfull,

We both of custome oftentimes did vse, 35
Leauing the court, to walke within the fieldes

For recreation, especially (in) the spring,
In that it yelds greates store of rare delights:

And passing further then our wonted walkes,
Scarse were entred within these lucklesse

woods, 40
But right before vs downe a steepe fall hil

A monstrous vgly beare did hie him fast,
To meete vs both. I faint to tell the rest,

Good shepherd, but suppose the gastly lookes,
The hiddious feares, the thousant hunderd

woes, 45
Which at this instant *Amadine* susteind.

Mu. Yet, worthy princes, let thy sorrow cease,

And let this sight your former ioyes reuiue.

Ama. Beleeue me, shepheard, so it doth no lesse.

Mu. Long may they last vnto your hearts content. 50

But tell me, Ladie, what is become of him,

Segasto calld, what is become of him?

Ama. I knowe not, I; that knowe the powers diuine,

But God graunt this: that sweet *Segasto* liue.

Mu. Yet heard harted he in such a case,
So cowardly to saue himselfe by flight: 56

And leaue so braue a princesse to the spoyle.

Ama. Well, shepheard, for thy worthy valour tried,

Endangering thy selfe to set me free,
Vnrecompensed, sure, thou shalt not be. 60

In court thy courage shalbe plainly knowne:
Throughout the Kingdome will I spread thy name,

To thy renowne and neuer dying fame:
And that thy courage may be better knowne,

Beare thou the head of this most monstrous beast 65

In open sight to euerie courtiers viewe:
So will the king my father thee rewarde.

Come, lets away, and guard me to the court.

Mu. With all my heart. [Exeunt.

(SCENE IV. Outskirts of the Forest.)

Enter Segasto solus.

Se. When heapes of harmes do houer ouer head,

Tis time as then, some say, to looke about,
And of ensuing harmes to choose the least:

But hard, yea haplesse, is that wretchesse chaunce,

Lucklesse his lot and caytiffe like acourste, 5
At whose proceedings fortune euer frownes.

My selfe I meane, most subiect vnto thrall,
For I, the more I seeke to shun the worst,

The more by prooffe I find my selfe accurst:
Ere whiles assaulted with an vgly beare, 10

Fayre *Amadine* in company all alone,
Forthwith by flight I thought to saue my selfe,

Leauing my *Amadine* vnto her shiffes:
For death it was for to resist the beare,

And death no lesse of *Amadines* harmes to heare. 15

Accursed I in lingring life thus long!
In liuing thus, each minute of an hower

Doth pierce my hart with dartes of thousand deaths:

If she by flight her fury doe escape,
What will she thinke? 20

Will she not say—yea, flatly to my face,
Accusing me of meere disloyaltie—

32 Ends *Segasto* Q1 On Q1-5: One Q6 ff. 37
especially Q1 in add. Haz. specially in spring WP
39 farther Haz. 40 entred were Q3, etc. 45
hundred thousand Q5 ff.

55 heard Q1: hard Q3, etc. 69 Wrongly bracketed
by Haz. Scene IV. WP 3 of Q5, etc.: so Q1-4
4 wretches Q3 ff. 11 Fayre Q9: With WP 17
liuing Q3, etc.: leeuing Q1 19 her] his Col.

A trustie friend is tride (in) time of neede,
 But I, when she in danger was of death
 And needed me, and cried, *Segasto, helpe:* 25
 I turned my backe and quickly ran away.
 Vnworthy I to beare this vitall breath!
 But what! what needes these plaintes?
 If *Amadine* do liue, then happie I;
 Shee will in time forgiue and so forget: 30
Amadine is mercifull, not *Iuno* like,
 In harmful hart to harbor hatred long.

Enter Mouse, the Clowne, running, crying:
clubs.

Mouse. Clubs, prongs, pitchforks, billes! O
 helpe! a beare, a beare, a beare!

Se. Still beares, and nothing else but beares.
 Tell me, sirra, wher she is. 36

Clo. O sir, she is runne downe the woods:
 I see her white head and her white belly.

Se. Thou talkest of wonders, to tell me of
 white bears. But, sirra, didst thou euer see
 any such? 41

Clo. No, faith, I neuer sawe any such, but
 I remember my fathers woordes: hee bad
 mee take heede I was not caught with a white
 beare. 45

Se. A lamentable tale, no dout.

Clo. I tell you what, sir, as I was going
 a fiedle to serue my fathers greate horse, &
 caried a bottle of hay vpon my head—now doe
 you see, sir—I, fast hudwinckt, that I could see
 nothing, perceiuing the beare comming, I
 threw my hay into the hedge and ran away.

Se. What, from nothing? 53

Clo. I warrant you, yes, I saw something,
 for there was two loades of thornes besides my
 bottle of hay, and that made three.

Se. But tell me, sirra, the beare that thou
 didst see,

Did she not beare a bucket on her arme? 58

Clo. Ha, ha, ha! I neuer saw beare goe a
 milking in all my life. But hark you, sir, I
 did not looke so hie as her arme: I saw nothing
 but her whit head, and her whit belly.

Se. But tell me, sirra, where doost thou
 dwell?

Clo. Why, doe you not knowe mee? 65

Se. Why no, how should I know thee?

Clo. Why, then, you know no bodie, and
 you knowe not mee. I tell you, sir, I am the
 goodman rats son of the next parish ouer the
 hill. 70

Se. Goodman rats son: why, whats thy
 name?

Clo. Why, I am very neere kin vnto him.

Se. I thinke so, but whats thy name?

Clo. My name? I haue (a) very pretie name;
 Ile tel you what my name is: my name is
Mouse.

Se. What, plaine *Mouse*? 78

Clo. I, plaine mouse with out either welt or
 garde. But doe you heare, sir, I am but a very
 young mouse, for my taile is scarce growne
 out yet; looke you here els.

Se. But, I pray thee, who gaue thee that
 name? 84

Clo. Fayth, sir, I know not that, but if you
 would faine know, aske my fathers greate
 horse, for he hath bin halfe a yeare longer with
 my father then I haue.

Se. This seemes to be a merrie fellow;
 I care not if I take him home with me. 90
Mirth is a comfort to a troubled minde,
 A merrie man a merrie master makes.

How saist thou, sirra, wilt thou dwell with
 me?

Clo. Nay, soft, sir, two words to a bargaine:
 praie you, what occupation are you? 95

Se. No occupation, I liue vpon my landes.

Clo. Your lands! away, you are no maister
 for me: why, doe you thinke that I am so mad,
 to go seke my liuing in the lands amongst the
 stones, briars, and bushes, and teare my holy
 day apparell? not I, by your leaue. 101

Se. Why, I do not meane thou shalt.

Clo. How then?

Se. Why, thou shalt be my man, and waite
 vpon me at the court. 105

Clo. Whats that?

Se. Where the King lies.

Clo. Whats that same King, a man or
 woman?

Se. A man as thou arte. 110

Clo. As I am? harke you, sir; pray you,
 what kin is he to good man king of our parish,
 the church warden?

Se. No kin to him; he is the King of the
 whole land. 115

Clo. King of the land! I neuer see him.

Se. If thou wilt dwel with me, thou shalt
 see him euerie day.

Clo. Shal I go home againe to be torne in
 peces with beares? no, not I. I wil go home
 & put on a cleane shirt, and then goe drowne
 my selfe. 122

Se. Thou shalt not need; if thou wilt dwell
 with me, thou shalt want nothing.

Clo. Shal I not? then heares my hand; ile

23 in om. Q1 28 need Q8 ff. 35 else om. Q8 ff
 38 see Q1: saw Q3, etc. white head Q1 49 bottly
 Q1 55 two] tow Q1 68 am the Q1: am Q8

75 a om. Q1 80 am but Q1-4: am Q5 ff. 94 two]
 tow Q1 108 or Q1: or a Q3 ff. 116 see Q1-6:
 saw Q8 ff.

dwel with you. And harke you, sir, now you haue entertained me, I wil tell you what I can doe: I can keepe my tongue from picking and stealing, and my handes from lying and slaundersing, I warrant you, as wel as euer you had man in all your life. 131

Se. Now will I to court with sorrowfull hart, rounwed with doubts.

If *Amadine* doe liue, then happy I :

Yea, happie I, if *Amadine* doe liue. 135

[*Exeunt.*]

(ACT II.

SCENE I. *The Camp of the King of Arragon.*)

Enter the King with a young prince prisoner, Amadine, (Tremelio,) with Collen and counsellors.

King. Now, braue Lords, our wars are brought to end,

Our foes (to) the foile, and we in safetie rest :

It vs behoues to vse such clemencie

In peace as valour in the warre

It is as great honor to be bountifull 5

At home as to be conquerers in the field.

Therefore, my Lords, the more to my content,

Your liking, and your countries safeguarde,

We are dispoise in marriage for to giue

Our daughter to Lord *Segasto* heare, 10

Who shall succede the diadem after me,

And raigne heereafter as I tofore haue done,

Your sole and lawfull King of Arragon:

What say you, Lordings, like you of my aduise? 14

Col. And please your Maiesty, we doe not onely asoue of your highnesse pleasure, but also vow fathfully in what we may to further it.

King. Thankes, good my Lords, if long

Adrostop liue,

Hee will at full requite your curtesies. 20

Tremelio,

In recompence of thy late valour done,

Take vnto thee the Catalonea prince,

Latelie our prisoner taken in the warres.

Be thou his keeper, his ransome shall be thine; 25

Weele thinke of it when leasure shall afforde:

Meane while, doe vse him well; his father is a King.

Act II. Scene I. WP The Camp, etc. pr. ed. S. D. Tremelio add. Q 3 1 our Qg: that our Haz. 2 the foile Qg: have had the foil Haz: to foil Wag. 4 warres Q 3 ff. 3, 5 End peace, home Qg 6 to be om. Q 8 ff. 10 to Q 1: vnto Q 8 ff: to the Col. 14 What Qg: How WP 15 And Q 1: An't Q 3 ff. 21, 22 One line Qg 23 Catalonea aprince Q 1: Catalonea, a Prince Q 3 ff: Catalonian prince Haz. 26 thinke Q 1-8: have Q 11 ff.

Tre. Thankes to your Maiestie: his vsage shalbe such,

As he therat shall thinke no cause to grutce.

[*Exeunt (Tremelio and Prince).*]

King. Then march we on to court, and rest our wearied limmes. 31

But, *Collen*, I haue a tale in secret kept for thee: When thou shalt heare a watch woord from thy king,

Thinke then some waightie matter is at hand

That highlie shall concerne our state, 35

Then, *Collen*, looke thou be not farre from me:

And for thy seruice thou to fore hast done,

Thy trueth and valour proude in euerie point,

I shall with bounties thee enlarge therefore:

So guard vs to the courte. 40

Col. What so my soueraigne doth commaund me doe,

With willing mind I gladly yeeld consent.

[*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE II. *The same.*)

Enter Segasto, and the Clowne with weapons about him.

Se. Tel me, sirra, how doe you like your weapons?

Clo. O verie wel, verie wel, they keep my sides warme.

Se. They keep the dogs from your shins verie well, doe they not? 6

Clo. How, keep the dogs from my shins? I would scorne but my shins should keep the dogs from them.

Se. Well, sirra, leauing idle talke, tell me: Dost thou know captaine *Tremelioes* chamber?

Clo. I, verie well; it hath a doore. 12

Se. I thinke so, for so hath euery chamber. But dost thou know the man?

Clo. I, forsooth, he hath a nose on his face.

Se. Why so hath euery on(e). 16

Clo. Thats more then I know.

Se. But doest thou remember the captaine, that was heere with the king euen now, that brought the yong prince prisoner? 20

Clo. O, verie well.

Se. Go vnto him and bid him come to me. Tell him I haue a matter in secret to impart to him. 24

Clo. I wil, master:—master, what's his name?

Se. Why, captaine *Tremelio*.

Clo. O, the meale man. I knowe him verie well. He brings meale euery saturday. But harke you, master, must I bid him come to you or must you come to him? 30

S. D. Tremelio, etc. add. Haz. 32 kept Q 1-6 fit Q 8 ff. Scene II. D 6 very om. Q 8: very well om. Q 14 8 could Q 3 26 Tremelio, man Elze

Se. No, sir, he must come to me.

Clo. Harke you, master, how if he be not at home? What shall I doe then?

Se. Why, then (thou) leaust worde with some of his folkes. 35

Clo. Oh, maister, if there be no bodie within, I will leaue word with his dog.

Se. Why, can his dog speake?

Clo. I cannot tell; wherefore doth he keep his chamber els? 40

Se. To keepe out such knaues as thou art.

Clo. Nay, be ladie, then go your selfe.

Se. You will go, sir, wil ye not?

Clo. Yes, marrie, will I. O tis come to my head:

And a be not within, Ile bring his chamber to you. 45

Se. What, wilt thou plucke down the Kings house?

Clo. Nay, be ladie, ile knowe the price of it first. Master, it is such a hard name, I haue forgotten it againe. I praie you, tell me his name. 51

Se. I tell thee, captaine *Tremelio*.

Clo. Oh, captaine treble knaue, captaine treble knaue.

Enter Tremelio.

Tre. How now, sirra, doost thou call mee?

Clo. You must come to my maister, captain treble knaue. 57

Tre. My Lord *Segasto*, did you send for mee?

Se. I did, *Tremelio*. Sirra, about your businesse.

Clo. I, marry: whats that, can you tell?

Se. No, not well. 63

Clo. Marrie, then, I can: straight to the kitchen dresser, to Iohn the cooke, and get me a good peece of beefe and brewis, and then to the buttery hatch to Thomas the butler for a iacke of beare, and there for an houre ile so be labour my selfe! therefore, I pray you, cal me not till you thinke I haue done, I pray you, good mayster. 71

Se. Well, sir, away. (*Exit Mouse.*)

Tremelio, this it is: thou knowest the valour of *Segasto* spred through all the kingdome of *Arragon*, and such as hath found triumph and

31 sir Q 1: sirra Q 3, etc. 32 how om. Q 5. 34 thou odd. pr. ed. least Q 1: leaue Q 3, etc. 36 Oh Qq: How Haz. 42, 48 by Lady Q 3 ff.: by r Lady Haz. 43 ye Q 1: you Q 3, etc. 48 Nay Q 1-6: No Q 8. 52 Tremelio, knave Elzr. 69 and therefore Q 3, etc. 72 N. D. odd. Haz. 73-8 Verse Qq, der. Segasto, Arragon, fauours, shepherd, worthynesse, a side. The speech may have been written in verse, but, if so, is hopelessly corrupt. Cf. II. 97-107, 131-4.

faouours, neuer daunted at any tyme; but now a shepherd (is) admired at in court for worthy-nesse, and *Segastoes* honour layd a side. My wil, therefore, is this, that thou dost find som meanes to worke the shepherdes death. I know thy strength sufficient to performe my desire, & thy loue no other wise then to reuenge my iniuries. 83

Tre. It is not the frownes of a shepheard that *Tremelio* feares. Therefore, account it accomplished, what I take in hand.

Se. Thankes, good *Tremelio*, and assure thy selfe, 87

What I promise that will I performe.

Tre. Thankes, my good Lord, and in good time see where

He cometh: stand by a while, and you shall see 90

Me put in practise your intended driftes.

Haue at thee, swaine, if that I hit thee right.

Enter Mucedorus.

Mu. Vild coward, so without cause to strike a man.

Turne, coward, turne; now strike and doe thy worst.

Mucedorus killeth him.

Se. Hould, shepheard, hould; spare him, kill him not! 95

Accursed villaine, tell me, what hast thou done?

Ah, *Tremelio*, trustie *Tremelio*!

I sorrow for thy death, and since that thou, Liuing, didst prooue faithfull to *Segasto*, So *Segasto* now, liuing, shall honour 100 The dead corpes of *Trem(e)lio* with reuenge. Bloudthirsty villaine,

Borne and bredde to mercilesse murther, Tell me, how durst thou be so bold as once To lay thy hands vpon the least of mine? 105 Assure thy selfe,

Thou shalt be vsd according to the law.

Mu. *Segasto*, cease, these threats are needlesse.

Accuse not me of murther, that haue done Nothing but in mine owne defence. 110

Se. Nay, shepheard, reason not with me.

Ile manifest thy fact vnto the King, Whose doome will be thy death, as thou deserust.

What hoe, Mouse, come away! 114

77 is odd. Haz. at om. Q 5 ff. 89-91 Dic. time, while Qq: corr. Haz. 91 intended Q 1 drift Q 3 ff. 97-107 Lines end death, to, dead, reuenge, murther, bold, mine, law, Qq: corr. pr. ed. 102 Bloudthirsty Q 1 109 Ends nothing Qq

(Enter Mouse.)

Clo. Why how now, whats the matter?
 I thought you would be calling before I had done.
Se. Come, helpe; away with my friend.
Clo. Why, is he drunke? cannot he stand on his feet?

Se. No, he is not drunke, he is slaine. 120
Clo. Flaïne? no, by Ladie, he is not flaïne.
Se. Hees kild, I tell thee.
Clo. What, doe you vse to kil your friends?
 I will serue you no longer.
Se. I tell thee, the shepheard kild him. 125
Clo. O, did a so? but, master, I will haue al his apparel if I carry him away.
Se. Why, so thou shalt.

Clo. Come, then, I will healpe; mas, master, I thinke his mother song looby to him, he is so heauie. [Exeunt (Segasto and Mouse).]

Mu. Behold the fickle state of man, alwaies mutable, 132
 Neuer at one. Sometimes we feed on fancies
 With the sweete of our desires; sometimes againe
 We feeble the heat of extreame miserie. 135
 Now am I in fauour about the court and countrie.

To morrow those fauours will turne to frownes:
 To daie I liue reuenged on my foe,
 To morrow I die, my foe reuenged on me.

[Exit.]

(SCENE III. The Forest.)

Enter Bremo, a wild man.

Bre. No passengers this morning? what, not one?
 A chance that seldome does befall.
 What, not one? then lie thou there,
 And rest thyselfe til I haue further neede,
 Now, Bremo, sith thy leasure so affords— 5
 An endlesse thing. Who knowes not Bremoes strength,
 Who like a king commandes within these woods?

The beare, the boare, dares not abide my sight,
 But hastes away to saue themselves by flight:
 The christall waters in the bubbling brookes,
 When I come by, doth swiftly slide away, 11
 And claps themselves in closets vnder bankes,
 Afraide to looke bold Bremo in the face:
 The aged oaks at Bremoes breath doe bowe,

S. D. add. Q 3 121 by *Qq*: by'r *Haz.* 130 song
Q 1: sung *Q 3. etc.* *S. D.* Segasto, *etc. add. pr. ed.*
 132-5 *Three lines Qq.*, *div. one, desires, miserie: corr. pr. ed.* 135 *miserie Q 1*: *miseries Q 3. etc.* *S. D.*
 Exit *Q 3, etc.* Exeunt *Q 1* Scene III. *WP* 1 pas-
 senger *Q 3, etc.* 5 sith *Qq*: sit *Elze* 6 endlesse
Qq: needlesse *Elze*: aimlesse *Wag.* 7 commander
Q 1-5 9 haste *Q 3, etc.* 11 doe *Q 6 ff.*

And all things els are still at my commaund.
 Els What would I? 16
 Rent them in peeces and plucke them from the earth,
 And each waie els I will reuenge my selfe.
 Why who comes heere with whome I dare not fight?
 Who fights with me & doth not die the death?
 Not on(e): What fauour shewes this sturdie stick to those, 21
 That heere within these woods are combatantes with me?

Why, death, and nothing else but present death.
 With restlesse rage I wander through these woods, 24

No creature heere but feareth Bremoes force,
 Man, woman, child, beast and bird,
 And every thing that doth approach my sight,
 Are forst to fall if Bremo once but frowne.
 Come, cudgel, come, my partner in my spoiles,
 For heere I see this daie it will not be; 30
 But when it falles that I encounter anie,
 One pat suffiseth for to worke my wil.
 What, comes not one? then lets begon;
 A time will serue when we shal better speed.

[Exit.]

(SCENE IV. Arragon. A Room of State in the Court.)

Enter the King, Segasto, the Shepheard and the Clowne, with others.

King. Shephard, thou hast heard thine accusers;
 Murther is laid to thy charge.

What canst thou say? thou hast deserued death.

Mu. Dread soueraigne, I must needes confesse,

I slewe this captaine in mine owne defence, 5
 Not of any malice, but by chance;
 But mine accuser hath a further meaning.

Se. Words will not heere preuaile,
 I seek for iustice, & iustice craues his death.

King. Shephard, thine owne confession hath condemned thee. 10

Sirra, take him away, & doe him to execution straight.

Clo. So hee shall, I warrant him; but doe you heare, maister King, he is kin to a monkie, his necke is bigger then (h)is head. 15

Se. Com, sirra, away with him, and hang him about the middle.

17 Rent *Q 1*: Rend *Q 3 ff.* and *om.* *WP* 22
 combataines *Q 1* 26 child *Qq*: child and *Elze*
 32 suffiezh *Q 3*: suffised *Q 1* Scene IV. *WP* Arra-
 gon, *etc. add. T* 11 *Two lines WP, div. away*
 straight to execution *WP* 13 hee *Qq*: I *WP* 16
 Com *om. Haz.*

Clo. Yes, forsooth, I warrant you: come on, sir. A, so like a sheepe biter a lookes!

Enter Amadine and a boie with a beares head.

Ama. Dread soueraigne and welbeloued sire, 20

On bended knees I craue the life of this
Condemned shepheard, which heertofore pre-
serued

The life of thy sometime distressed daughter.

K. Preserued the life of my sometime dis-
tressed daughter?

How can that be? I neuer knew the time 25
Wh(e)rein thou wast distrest; I neuer knew the
daie

But that I haue maintained thy state,
As best beseemd the daughter of a king.

I neuer saw the shepheard vntil now.

How comes it, then, that he preserued thy life?

Ama. Once walkeing with *Segasto* in the
woods, 31

Further then our accustomed maner was,
Right before vs, downe a steepe fal hill,
A monstrous vgly beare doth hie him fast

To meete vs both: now whether this bee trewe,
I referre it to the credit of *Segasto*. 36

Se. Most trewe, and like your maiestie.

King. How then?

Ama. The beare, being eager to obtaine his
praie,

Made forward to vs with an open mouth, 40

As if he meant to swallow vs both at once;

The sight whereof did make vs both to dread,

But speciallie your daughter *Amadine*,

Who, for I saw no succour incident

But in *Segastoes* valour, I grew desperate, 45

And he most cowardlike began to fly—

Left me distrest to be deuoured of him.

How say you, *Segasto*, is it not true?

K. His silence verifies it to be true. What
then?

Ama. Then I amasde, distressed, all alone,
Did hie me fast to scape that vglie beare, 51

But all in vaine, for, why, he reached after me,

And hardly I did oft escape his pawes,

Till at the length this shepheard came,

And brought to me his head. 55

Come hither boy: loe, heere it is,
Which I present vnto your maiestie.

Ki. The slaughter of this beare deserues
great fame.

Se. The slaughter of a man deserues greate
blame.

21-3 *Prose Qq* 21 *benden Haz.* *kees Q1:* *knee*
Q3 ff. 22 which tofore *WP* 34 doth *Q1:* *did*
Q3 ff. 54-7 *Dv.* brought, it is *WP* 56, 57 *One*
line Qq: *corr. Haz.*

King. Indeed occasion oftentimes so falles
out. 60

Se. *Tremelio* in the wars, *O King*, pre-
serued thee.

Ama. The shepheard in the woods, o king,
preserued me.

S. *Tremelio* fought when many men did yeeld.

Ama. So would the shepheard, had he bin in
field.

Clo. So would my maister, had he not run
away. 65

Se. *Tremelios* force saued thousands from
the foe.

Ama. The shepherds force (would) haue
saued thousands more.

Clo. Aye, shipstickes, nothing else.

King. *Segasto*, cease to accuse the shep-
heard,

His worthynesse deserues a recompence, 70
All we are bound to doe the shepheard good:

Shepheard, whereas it was my sentence, thou
shouldst die,

So shall my sentence stand, for thou shalt die.

Se. Thankes to your maiestie.

King. But soft, *Segasto*, not for this
offence.— 75

Long maist thou liue, and when the sisters shal
decree

To cut in twaine the twisted thread of life,

Then let him die: for this I set thee free:

And for thy valour I will honour thee.

Mu. Thankes to your maiestie. 80

King. Come, daughter, let vs now departe,
to honour the worthy valour of the shepheard
with our rewards. [*Exeunt.*]

Clo. O mayster, heare you, you haue made
a freshe hand now you would be slowe, you;

why, what will you doe nowe? you haue lost
me a good occupation by the meanes. Faith,

maister, now I cannot hang the shepheard, I
pray you, let me take the paines to hang you:

it is but halfe an houres exercise. 90

Se. You are still in your knauery, but sith
I cannot haue his life I will procure his banish-
ment for euer. Come on, sirra.

Clo. Yes, forsooth, I come.—Laugh at him,
I pray you. [*Exeunt.*]

(ACT III.

SCENE I. Grove near the Court.)

Enter Mucedorus solus.

Mu. From *Amadine* and from her fathers
court,

60 ofttimes *Elze* 67 haue *Q1:* *hath Q3, etc.* :
would haue *pr. ed.* thousand *Q1* 68 A ye *Q3 ff.*
74 maistic *Q1* 78 him free *Q3 ff.* 85 you would be
slowe you *Q1-6:* I thought you would beshrow you
Q8 ff. 87 this means *Haz.* Act III. Scene I. *WP*

With gold and siluer and with rich rewardes,
Flowing from the bankes of golden tresuries,—
More may I boast and say: but I,
Was neuer shepheard in such dignitie. 5

Enter the messenger and the clowne.

Mess. All hayle, worthy shepheard.

Clo. All rayne, lowsie shepheard.

Mu. Welcome, my frindes; from whence come you?

Mess. The King and *Amadine* greetes thee well, and after greetings done, bids thee depart the court: shepheard, begon. 12

Clo. Shepheard, take lawe legs; flye away, shepheard.

Mu. Whose woordes are these? came these from *Amadine*? 16

Mess. Aye, from *Amadine*.

Clo. Aye, from *Amladine*.

Mu. Ah, luckelesse fortune, worse then *Phaetons* tale, 20

My former blisse is now become my bale. 20

Clo. What, wilt thou poyson thy selfe?

Mu. My former heauen is now become my hell.

Clo. The worst ale house that I euer came in, in al my life.

Mu. What shall I doe? 25

Clo. Euen goe hang thy selfe halfe an hower.

Mu. Can *Amadine* so churelishly commaund,

To banish the shepheard from her Fathers court?

Mess. What should shepheardes doe in the court? 31

Clo. What should shepherdes doe amongst vs? haue we not Lordes inough on vs in the courte?

Mu. Why, shepheardes are men, and kinges are no more. 36

Mess. Shepheardes are men and maisters ouer their flocke.

Clo. That's a lie: who payes them their wages then? 40

Mes. Well, you are alwayes interrupting of me, but you are best looke to him, least you hang for him when he is gone. [*Exit.*]

The Clowne sings.

Clo. And you shall hang for companie, For leauing me alone. 45

3 golden Q1-6: gold and Q8 ff. tresuries Q1: treasures Q3 ff. S. D. messenger Q3: messengers Q1 11 greeting Q3 ff. 15 Come Haz. 20 blisse Q1 33 on Q1: o'er Haz. 42 were best to looke Q3 ff.

Shepheard, stand foorth and heare thy sentence:

Shepheard, begone within three dayes in payne of

My displeasure: shepheard, begon; shepheard, begon; begon, begon, begon, shepheard, shepheard, shepheard. [*Exit.*]

Mu. And must I goe, and must I needs depart? 51

Ye goodly groues, partakers of my songes In tyme tofore when fortune did not frowne, Powre foorth your plaints and waile a while with me; 54

And thou bright sunne, my comfort in the cold, Hide, hide thy face and leaue me comfortlesse; Ye holosome hearbes, and sweete smelling fauours,

Ye each thing els prolonging life of man, Change, change your wonted course, that I, Wanting your aide, in woefull sort may die. 60

Enter Amadine (and Ariena her maide).

Ama. *Ariena*, if any body aske for mee, Make some excuse till I returne.

Ari. What and *Segasto* call?

Ama. Do thou the like to him; I mean not to stay long. (*Exit Ariena.*)

Mu. This voyce so sweet my pining spirites reuiues. 66

Ama. Shepheard, wel met; tel me how thou doest.

Mu. I linger life, yet wish for speedy death.

Ama. Shepheard, although thy banishment already

Be decreed, and all agaynst my will, 70 Yet *Amadine*—

Mu. Ah, *Amadine*, to heare of banishment Is death, I, double death to me,

But since I must depart, one thing I craue.

Ama. Say on with all my heart. 75

Mu. That in absence, either farre or neere, You honour me, as seruant, with your name.

Ama. Not so.

Mu. And why?

Ama. I honour thee, as soueraigne, with my heart. 80

Mu. A shepheard and a soueraigne? nothing like.

Ama. Yet like enough where there is no dislike.

Mu. Yet great dislike, or els no banishment.

Ama. Shepheard, it is onely

46 thy Q1: my Q2, etc. 59 Ends course Q1. S. D. and . . maide add. Q3 D. WP begins Scene II. here 65 S. D. Exit after 65 Q3 ff. 69 Ends be Q1 70 my Q3, etc.: thy Q1 76 in my absence WP 77 with Q1-6: to Q8 ff. 80 Soueraigne of Q3, etc. 84, 85 One line Q1

Segasto that procures thy banishment. 85

Mu. Vnworthy wightes are most in ielosie.

Ama. Would God they would free the from banishment,

Or likewise bannish mee.

Mu. Amen, say I, to haue your companie.

Ama. Well, shepheard, sith thou sufferest this for my sake, 90

With thee in exile also let me liue—

On this condition, shepheard, thou canst loue.

Mu. No longer loue, no longer let me liue!

Ama. Of lat I loued one indeed, now loue

I none but onely thee. 95

Mu. Thanks, worthie princes; I borne likewise,

Yet smother vp the blast,

I dare not promise what I may performe.

Ama. Well, shepheard, harke what I shall say:

I will returne vnto my Fathers court, 100

There for to prouide me of such necessities,

As for our iourney I shall thinke most fit;

This being done, I will returne to thee.

Doe thou, therefore, appoint the place where we may meete.

Mu. Downe in the valley where I slue the beare: 105

And there doth grow a faire broade branched beach,

That ouershades a well; so who comes first

Let them abide the happie meeting of vs both.

How like you this?

Ama. I like it very wel. 110

Mu. Now, if you please, you may appoint the time.

Ama. Full three hours hence, God willing, I will returne.

Mu. The thanks that *paris* gaue the gre-cian queene

The like doth *Mucedorus* yeeld. 114

Ama. Then, *Mucedorus*, for three howres farewell. [Exit.]

Mu. Your departure, ladie, breeds a priuie paine. [Exit.]

'SCENE II. The Court.'

Enter Segasto solus.

Se. This well, *Segasto*, that thou hast thy will;

Should such a shephard, such a simple swaine As he, eclips thy credite famous through

87. 88 *One line Q1-3: corr. Q6* 88 banish *Q1*
90. 91 *Prose Q1: corr. Q3* 96 burne *Q3, etc.* 98
mayn't conj. *Wag.* 101 There for *Q3, etc.*: There-
fore *Q1* 102 our *Q1: my Q3, etc.* Scene II]
Scene III *WP* 3-5 *Dw.* court, saide *Qq* 3 As he
om. *WP*

The court? No, ply, *Segasto*, ply:

Let it not in Arragon be saide, 5

A shephard hath *Segastoes* honour wonne.

Enter Mouse the clowne calling his maister.

Clo. What hoe, maister, will you come away?

Se. Will you come hither? I pray you, whats the matter? 10

Clo. Why, is it not past aleauen a clock?

Se. How then, sir?

Clo. I pray you, com away to dinner.

Se. I pray you, come hither.

Clo. Heres such a doe with you! wil you neuer come? 16

Se. I pray you, sir, what newes of the messe- sage I sente you about?

Clo. I tell you all the messes be on the table alreadie. There wants not so much as a messe of mustard halfe an hower agoe. 22

Se. Come, sir, your minde is all vpon your belly;

You haue forgotten what I did bid you doe.

Clo. Faith, I knowe nothing, but you bad me goe to breakefast. 26

Se. Was that all?

Clo. Faith, I haue forgotten it; the verie sent of the meate hath made me forget it quite. 30

Se. You haue forgotten the arrant I bid you doe?

Clo. What arrant? an arrant knaue, or arrant whore?

Se. Why, thou knaue, did I not bid thee banish the shepheard? 36

Clo. O, the shephards bastard.

Se. I tell thee, the shepherdes banishment.

Clo. I tel you the shepherds bastard shalbe wel kept: ile looke to it myselfe else; but I pray you, come away to dinner. 41

Se. Then you wil not tell me whether you haue banished him or noe?

Clo. Why, I cannot say banishment, and you would giue me a thousand pounds to say so. 46

Se. Why, you horson slaue, haue you forgotten that I sent you and another to driue away the shephard.

Clo. What an asse are you; heers a sturre indeede: heeres 'message,' 'arrant,' 'banish-ment,' and I cannot tell what. 52

Se. I pray you, sir, shall I know whether you haue droue him away?

4 ply.. ply *Qq, etc.*: ?fye.. fye 24 did om.
Q3 ff. 29 made me hath *Q1-6* forgot *Q3-6*
40 else om. *Q3, etc.*

Clo. Faith, I thinke I haue; and you will
not beleue me, aske my staffe. 56

Se. Why, can thy staffe tell?

(*Clo.*) Why, he was with me to.

Se. Then happie I that haue obtaind my
will. 60

Clo. And happier I, if you would goe to
dinner.

Se. Come, sirra, follow me.

Clo. I warrant you, I will not loose an inch
of you, now you are going to dinner.—I pro-
mise you, I thought seauen yeare before I
could get him away.

[*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE III. *The Forest.*)

Enter Amadine sola.

Ama. God grant my long delaie procures
no harme

Nor this my tarrying frustrate my pretence.
My *Mucedorus* surelie staies for me,
And thinks me ouer long: at length I come
My present promise to performe. 5

Ah, what a thing is firme vnfaid loue!
What is it which true loue dares not tempt?
My father he may make, but I must match;

Segasto loues, but *Amadine* must like,
Where likes her best; compulsion is a thrall:
No, no, the heartie choise is all in all, 11

The shephards vertue *Amadine* esteemes.
But, what, me thinks my shephard is not come.
I muse at that, the hower is sure at hande:

Well here ile rest till *Mucedorus* come. 15
Shee sits her downe.

*Enter Bremono looking about, hastily taketh
hould of her.*

Bremno. A hapie pray! now, *Bremno*, feede on
flesh.

Dainties, *Bremno*, dainties, thy hungry panch to
fill!

Now glut thy greedie guts with luke warme
blood!

Come, fight with me, I long to see thee dead.

Ama. How can she fight that weapons can-
not weeld? 20

Bre. What, canst not fight? then lie thou
downe and die.

Ama. What, must I die?

Bre. What needes these words? I thirst to
sucke thy blood.

Ama. Yet pittie me and let me liue a while.

Bre. No pittie I, ile feed vpon thy flesh, 25

He teare thy bodie peecemeale ioynt from
ioynt.

Ama. Ah, now I want my shephards com-
pany.

Bre. Ile crush thy bones betwixt two oken
trees.

Ama. Hast, shephard, hast, or else thou
comst to lat.

Bre. Ile sucke the sweetnes from thy marie
bones. 30

Ama. Ah spare, ah spare to shed my guilt-
lesse blood!

Bre. With this my bat will I beate out thy
braines.

Down, down, I say, prostrate thy selfe vpon
the ground.

Ama. Then, *Mucedorus*, farewel; my hoped
ioies, farewel.

Yea, farewel life, and welcome present
death! 35

Shee kneeles.

To thee, O God, I yeeld my dying ghost.

Bre. Now, *Bremno*, play thy part.—

How now, what sudden chaunce is this?

My limmes do tremble and my sinewes
shake,

My vnweaked armes haue lost their former
force: 40

Ah *Bremno*, *Bremno*, what a foyle hast thou,
That yet at no time euer wast afraide
To dare the greatest gods to fight with thee,
he strikes.

And now want strength for one downe driuing
blow!

Ah, how my courage failes when I should
strike: 45

Some newe come spirit, abiding in my breast,
Sayth 'spare her, *Bremno*, spare her, do not
kill.'

Shall I spare her which neuer spared any?

To it, *Bremno*, to it, say againe.—

I cannot weeld my weapons in my hand; 50
Me thinkes I should not strik so faire a
one:

I thinke her beawtie hath bewitcht my force
Or else with in me altered natures course.

Ay, woman, wilt thou liue in woods with
me?

Ama. Faine would I liue, yet loth to liue in
woodes. 55

Bre. Thou shalt not chuse, it shalbe as I say,
& therefore, follow me. [*Exit.*]

58 Prefix *Clo. add. Q3* 66 thought *Qq*: thought
it *Haz.* Scene III] Scene IV *WP* 2 tarring *Q1*
7 attempt *Q3, etc.* 14 sure *om. Q3 ff.* 23 needs
Q8 ff. 25 I, ile *Qq*: I will *WP*

26 Ile *Q1-6*: And *Q8 ff.* 27 now *Qq*: how *Haz.*
28 two] tow *Q1* 30 Marrow-bones *Q3, etc.* 38
change *Else* 40 weakened *Col.* 44 wants *Q3 ff.*
47 Saith *Q8, etc.*: Shall I *Q1-6* 48 Shall I *Q8,*
etc.: Sayth *Q1-6* 49 say *Qq*: essay *Haz.* 50
weapon *WP* 55-6 *Prose Q1*

(SCENE IV. *The same.*)*Enter Mucedorus solus.*

Mu. It was my wil an hower a goe and more,

As was my promise, for to make returne,
But other busines hindred my pretence.
It is a world to see when man appoints,
And purposelie one certaine thing decrees, 5
How manie things may hinder his intent.
What one would wish, the same is farthest off:
But yet thappoynted time cannot be past,
Nor hath her presence yet preuented mee. 9
Well, heere ile staie, and expect her comming.
They crie within, 'hould him, staie him, holde!'

Mu. Some one or other is pursued, no doubt;
Perhaps some search for me: tis good
To doubt the worst, therefore ile begone. [*Exit.*]

(SCENE V. *The same.*)

Crie within 'hold him, hold him.' *Enter Mouse the Clowne with a pot.*

Clo. Hold him, hold him, hold him! heers a stur in deed. Heere came hewe after the crier: and I was set close at mother Nips house, and there I calde for three pots of ale, as tis the manner of vs courtiers. Now, sirra, I had taken the maiden head of two of them. Now, as I was lifting vp the third to my mouth, there came: hold him, hold him! now I could not tell whome to catch hold on, but I am sure I caught one: perchance a maie be in this pot. Well, ile see: mas, I cannot see him yet; well, ile looke a little further. Mas, he is a little slaue, if a be heere. Why, heers no bodie. Al this goes well yet: but if the olde trot shoulde come for her pot—I, marrie, theres the matter, but I care not; ile face her out, and cal her ould rustie, dustie, mustie, fustie, crustie fire-bran, and worse then al that, and so face her out of her pot: but softe, heere she comes. 19

Enter the ould woman.

Old wo. Come on, you knaue: wheres my pot, you knaue?

Clo. Goe looke your pot; come not to me for your pot twere good for you.

Old. Thou liest, thou knaue; thou hast my pot. 25

Clo. You lie, and you say it. I your pot! I know what ile say.

Old. Why, what wilt thou say?

Scene IV] Scene V WP 7 one Q 3, etc.: once Q 1
9 me Q 3, etc.: wee Q 1 12, 13 *Prose* Q 1: dr. worst
Q 3 ff.: corr. Haz. Scene V] Scene VI WP 6
tow Q 1 17 crustie Q 1 22 look for your WP

Clo. But say I haue him, and thou darste.
Olde. Why, thou knaue, thou hast not onelie my pot but my drinke vnpaide for. 31
Clo. You lie like an old—I will not say whore.

Old. Dost thou cal me whore? ile cap thee for my pot. 35

Clo. Cap me & thou darest, search me whether I haue it or no.

Shee searcheth him, and he drinketh ouer her head and casts downe the pot; she stumpleth at it; then they fal together by the eares; she takes her pot and goes out. [*Exit.*]

Enter Segasto.

Se. How now, sirra, whats the matter?

Clo. Oh, flies, maister, flies.

Se. Flies? where are they? 40

Clo. Oh heere, maister, all about your face.

Se. Why, thou liest; I think thou art mad.

Clo. Why, maister, I haue kild a duncart ful at the least.

Se. Go to, sirra! leauing this idel talke, giue eare to me. 46

Clo. How? giue you one of my eares? not & you were ten maisters.

Se. Why, sir, I bid you giue eare to my wordes. 50

Clo. I tell you I will not be made a curtall for no mans pleasure.

Se. I tell thee, attend what I say: goe thy waies straight and reare the whole towne.

Clo. How? reare the towne? euen goe your selfe; it is more then I can doe: why, doe you thinke I can reare a towne, that can scarce reare a pot of ale to my heade? I should reare a towne, should I not? 59

Se. Go to the cunstable and make a priuie search, for the shephard is runne away with the Kings daughter.

Clo. How? is the shephard run away with the kings daughter? or is the kings daughter runne away with the shephard? 65

Se. I cannot tell, but they are both gon together.

Clo. What a foole is she to runne away with the shephard! why, I thinke I am a little handsomer man then the shephard my selfe; but tel me, maister, must I make a priuie search, or search in the priuie? 72

Se. Why, dost thou thinke they will be there?

Clo. I cannot tell.

Se. Well, then, search euerie where; leaue no place vnsearched for them. [*Exit.*]

35 my for Q 1 36 scarce Q 1 51 not] no Q 1
68 she is Haz.

Clo. Oh now am I in office; now wil I to that old firbrands house & wil not leaue one place vnsearched: nay, ile to her ale stand & drink as long as I can stand, & when I haue done, ile let out al the rest, to se if he be not hid in the barrel. & I find him not there, ile to the cubord; ile not leaue one corner of her house vnsearched: y' faith, ye old crust, I wilbe with you now. [Exit.]

[ACT IV.]

SCENE I. *Valentia. The Court.**Sound Musicke.*

Enter the King of Valentia, Anselmo, Roderigo, Lord Borachius, with others.

King Va. Enough of Musicke, it but ads to torment;

Delights to vexed spirits are as Dates
Set to a sickly man, which rather cloy then comfort:

Let mee intreate you to intreat no more.

Rod. Let your strings sleepe; haue done there. 5

Let the musicke cease.

Kin. V. Mirth to a soule disturb'd are embers turn'd,

Which sudden gleame with molestation,

But sooner loose their sight fort;

Tis Gold bestowd vpon a Ryotor,

Which not relieues, but murders him: Tis a Drugge 10

Giuen to the healthfull, Which infects, not cures.

How can a Father that hath lost his Sonne,

A Prince both wise, vertuous, and valiant,

Take pleasure in the idle actes of Time?

No, no; till Mucedorus I shall see againe, 15

All ioy is comfortlesse, all pleasure paine.

Ans. Your Sonne (my Lord) is well.

Ki. V. I pre-thee, speake that thrise.

Ans. The Prince, your Sonne, is safe.

K. V. O where, Anselmo? surfet me with that. 20

Ans. In Aragon, my Liege;

And at his parture, Bound my secrecie,

By his affection loue, not to disclose it:

But care of him, and pittie of your age,

Makes my tongue blab what my breast vow'd concealment. 25

85 y' fayth Q 3, etc.: y' faith Q 1 Act IV, Sc. I.
add. Q 3 Act IV, Scene I. WP 4 to repeat conj. Col.
5 your] von Haz. 6 are Qq: is Haz. 8 sight Qq:
light Col. 10, 11 Three lines Qq, dir. him, health-
full. 10 Tis on. Elze 18 twice Col. 21 Ends
parture Qq 22 parture Q 3-6: parting Q 8 ff. 23
affection Q 3-11: affections Q 12 ff. loue Qq: loss
Elze

K. V. Thou not deceiu'st me?

I euer thought thee What I find thee now,
An vpright, loyall man. But what desire,
Or young-fed humour Nurst within the braine,
Drew him so priuati to Aragon? 30

Ans. A forcing Adamant:

Loue, mixt with feare and doubtfull ielousie,
Whether report guilded a worthlesse truncke,
Or Amadine deserued her high extolment.

K. V. See our prouision be in readinesse;
Collect vs followers of the comliest hue 36

For our chiefe guardions, we will thither wend:
The christall eye of Heauen shall not thrise
wincke,

Nor the greene Flood sixe times his shoulders
turne,

Till we salute the Aragonian King. 40
Musicke speake loudly now, the season's apt,
For former dolours are in pleasure wrapt.

Exeunt omnes.]

[SCENE II. *The Forest.*]

Enter Mucedorus to disguise himselfe.

Mu. Now, Mucedorus, whither wilt thou
goe?

Home to thy father, to thy natiue soile,

Or trie some long abode within these woods?

Well, I will hence depart and hie me home.—

What, hie me home, said I? that may not be;
In *Amadine* rests my felicitie. 6

Then, *Mucedorus*, do as thou didst decree:

Attire thee hermite like within these groues,

Walke often to the beach and view the well,

Make settles there and seate thy selfe thereon,

And when thou feelest thy selfe to be a thirst,

Then drinke a heartie draught to *Amadine*.

No doubt she thinks on thee,

And wil one day come pleg thee at this well.

Come, habit, thou art fit for me: 15

he disguiseth himselfe:

No shepheard now, a hermit I must be.

Me thinks this fits me verie well;

Now must I learne to beare a walking staffe.

And exercise some grautie withall. 17

Enter the Clowne.

Clo. Heers throw the wods, and throw the
wods, to looke out a shepheard & a stray
kings daughter: but softe, who haue we heere?
what art thou? 23

Mu. I am an hermit.

Clo. An emmet? I neuer saw such (a) big
emmet in all my life before.

26-9 Div. thought thee, man, humour Qq: corr.
pr. ed. 29 the] his Q 8 ff. 38 eyes Haz. Scene
II. WP 8 groues Q 1 14 pledge Q 8, etc. 16 a
Q 1-6: an Q 8 ff. must I Q 8, etc. 25 a add. Q 3

Mu. I tel you, sir, I am an hermit, one that leads a solitarie life within these woods.

Clo. O, I know the now, thou art hee that eates vp al the hips and hawes; we could not haue one peece of fat bacon for thee al this yeare. 32

Mu. Thou dost mistake me; but I pray thee, tell mee what dost thou seeke in these woods?

Clo. What doe I seeke? for a stray Kings daughter runne away with a shephard.

Mu. A stray Kings daughter runne away with a shephearde.

Wherefore? canst thou tell? 38

Clo. Yes, that I can; tis this: my maister and *Amadine*, walking one day abroad, nearer to these woods then they were vsed—about what I can not tell—buttoward them comes running a greate beare. Now my maister, he plaide the man and runne away, & *Amadine* crying after him: now, sir, comes me a shepheard & strikes off the beares head. Now whether the beare were dead before or no I cannot tell, for bring twentie beares before me and binde their hands & feete and ile kil them al:—now euer since *Amadine* hath bin in loue with the shepheard, and for good wil shees euen runne away with the shepheard. 52

Mu. What manner of man was a? canst describe him vnto mee?

Clo. Scrib him? aye, I warrant you, that I can: a was a littel, low, broad, tall, narrow, big, wel fauoured fellow, a ierkin of whit cloath, and buttons of the same cloath.

Mu. Thou discribest him wel, but if I chaunce to se any such, pray you, wher shal I find you, or whats your name? 61

Clo. My name is called maister mouse,

Mu. Oh, maister mouse, I pray you what office might you beare in the court?

Clo. Marry, sir, I am a rusher of the stable.

Mu. O, vsher of the table. 66

Clo. Nay, I say rusher and ile prooue mine office good; for looke, sir, when any coms from vnder the sea or so, and a dog chance to blow his nose backward, then with a whip I giue him the good time of the day, and strawe rushes presently: therefore, I am a rusher, a hie office, I promise ye.

Mu. But where shall I find you in the Courte? 75

Clo. Why, where it is best being, either in the kitching a eating or in the butterie drinking: but if you come, I will prouide for thee a

peece of beefe & brewis knockle deepe in fat; pray you, take paines, remember maister mouse. [Exit.]

Mu. Ay, sir, I warrant I will not forget you. Ah, *Amadine*, what should become of the? 83 Whither shouldst thou go so long vnknowne? With watch and warde eche passage is beset, So that she cannot long escape vnknowne. Doubtlesse she hath lost her selfe within these woods 87

And wandring too and fro she seekes the well, Which yet she cannot finde; therefore will I seek her out. [Exit.]

(SCENE III. The same.)

Enter *Bremo* and *Amadine*.

Bre. *Amadine*, how like you *Bremo* & his woodes?

Ana. As like the woods of *Bremoes* crueltie: Though I were dombe and could not answer him, The beastes themselues would with relenting teares

Bewaile thy sauage and vnhumaine deedes. 5

Bre. My loue, why dost thou murmur to thy selfe?

Speake lowder, for thy *Bremo* heares thee not.

Ama. My *Bremo*? no, the shepheard is my loue.

Bre. Haue I not saued thee from sudden death,

Giuing thee leaue to liue that thou mightst loue? 10

And dost thou whet me on to crueltie?

Come kisse me, swete, for all my fauours past.

Am. I may not, *Bremo*, and therefore pardon me.

Bre. See how shee flings away from me; I will follow

And giue a rend to her. Denie my loue! 15

Ah, worne of beautie, I will chastice thee:

Com, com, prepare thy head vpon the block.

Ama. Oh, spare me, *Bremo*, loue should limit life,

Not to be made a murderer of him selfe.

If thou wilt glut thy louing heart with blood, Encounter with the lion or the beare, 21

And like a wolfe pray not vpon a lambe.

Bre. Why then dost thou repine at me?

If thou wilt loue me thou shalt be my queene:

I will crowne thee with a chaplet made of Iuie,

And make the rose and lilly wait on thee: 26

Ile rend the burley branchs from the oke,

83 her *Q 1*: thee *Q 3-6*: her *Q 8 ff.* 86 om. *Haz.*

89 her *Q 3, etc.*: hers *Q 1* Scene III. *WP* 14-17

Da. me, her, beautie *Q 1* 14 flings *Q 1-6*: flies *Q 8 ff.*

15 a rend *Q 1*: attend *Q 3 ff.*: attend *WP* 22 like

a) a like *Q 1* 25 complet *Q 1-4* *Ivy D*: *Iuorie Qq*

20 hee *Q 4, etc.*: her *Q 1, 3* 34 seeke *Qq*: seek
for *Elze* 35 seek for? *WP* 45 and hee strikes
Q 3, etc. 47 were] where *Q 1* 53 canst thou *WP*
67 mine *Qq*: my *Haz.* 77 a om. *Q 5 ff.*

To shadow thee from burning sunne.
The trees shall spred themselues where thou
dost go,

And as they spread, ile trace along with thee.

Ama. You may, for who but you? (*Aside.*)

Bre. Thou shalt bee fed with quailles and
partridges, 32

With blacke birds, larkes, thrushes and night-
ingales.

Thy drinke shall bee goates milke and christol
water,

Distilled from the fountaines & the clearest
springs. 35

And all the dainties that the woods afforde.

Ile freely giue thee to obtaine thy loue.

Ama. You may, for who but you? (*Aside.*)

Bre. The day ile spend to recreate my loue

With all the pleasures that I can deuise, 40

And in the night ile be thy bedfellow,

And louingly embrace thee in mine armes.

Ama. One may, so may not you. (*Aside.*)

Bre. The satyres & the woodnymphs shal
attend on the

And lull thee a sleepe with musickes sounde,

And in the morning when thou dost awake, 46

The lark shall sing good morne to my queene,

And whilst he singes, ile kisse my *Amadine*.

Ama. You may, for who but you? (*Aside.*)

Br. When thou art vp, the wood lanes
shalbe strawed 50

With violets, cowslips, and swete marigolds

For thee to trampel and to trace vpon,

And I will teach thee how to kill the deare,

To chase the hart and how to rowse the roe,

If thou wilt liue to loue and honour mee. 55

Ama. You may, for who but you? (*Aside.*)

Enter Mucedorus.

Bre. Welcome, sir,

An howre ago I lookt for such a gest.

Be merrie, wench, wee le haue a frolicke feast:

Heeres flesh inough for to suffice vs both. 60

Staie, sirra, wilt thou fight or dost thou yeel to
die?

Mu. I want a weapon; how can I fight?

Bre. Thou wants a weapon? why then thou
yeelst to die.

Mu. I say not so; I doe not yeeld to die.

Bre. Thou shalt not choose. I long to see
thee dead. 65

Ama. Yet spare him, *Bremo*, spare him.

Bre. Away, I say, I will not spare him.

Mu. Yet giue me leaue to speake.

Bre. Thou shalt not speake.

Ama. Yet giue him leaue to speake for my
sake. 70

Bre. Speake on, but be not ouer long.

Mu. In time of yore, when men like brutish
beasts

Did lead their liues in loathsom celles and
woodes

And wholly gaue themselues to witlesse will,
A rude vnruely rout, then man to man 75

Became a present praie, then might preuailed,

The weak(e)st went to walles:

Right was vnknown, for wrong was all in all.

As men thus liued in this great outrage,

Behould one *Orpheus* came, as poets tell, 80

And them from rudenes vnto reason brought,

Who led by reason soone forsooke the woodes.

Instead of caues they built them castles
strong;

Citties and townes were founded by them then:

Glad were they, they found such ease, 85

And in the end they grew to perfect amitie;

Waying their former wickednesse,

They teardm the time wherein they liued then

A golden age, a goodly golden age.

Now, *Bremo*, for so I heare thee called, 90

If men which liued tofore as thou dost now,

Wilie in wood, addicted all to spoile,

Returned were by worthy *Orpheus* meanes,

Let me like *Orpheus* cause thee to returne

From murder, bloudshed and like crueltie. 95

What, should we fight befor we haue a cause?

No, lets liue and loue together faithfully.

Ile fight for thee.

Bre. Fight for me or die: or fight or els thou
diest.

Ama. Hold, *Bremo*, hold! 100

Bre. Away, I say, thou troublest mee.

Ama. You promised me to make me your
queenne.

Bre. I did, I meane no less.

Ama. You promised that I should haue my
wil.

Bre. I did, I meane no lesse. 105

Ama. Then saue this hermits life, for he
may saue vs both.

B. At thy request ile spare him, but neuer
any after him. Say, hermit, what canst thou
doe?

Mu. Ile waite on thee, sometime vpon the
queene. Such seruice shalt thou shortly haue
as *Bremo* neuer had. [*Ex(e)unt.*]

31, 38, 43, 49 *Aside add. Haz.* 47 good-morrow
Q 3, etc. 52 trace Qg: tread Col. 56 *Aside add.*
WP 57 Welcomd Q 1 62 how Q 1: why, how
Elze 63 why then Q 1: then Elze

75 Ends became Qg 77 wall Haz. 79 this pr.
cl.: his Q 1: their Q 3, etc. 82 Reason, some
Q 6, etc.: reasonson some Q 1: Reason, some Q 3-5
85 they, that they Haz. 92 Wilie Q 1: Wilde
Q 3 ff.: Wildly Haz. 95 cruelties Q 6 ff. 102
your om. Q 5 ff. 110 the Q 1: thy Q 3, etc.

(SCENE IV. *The Court.*)*Enter Segasto, the Clowne and Rumbelo.*

Se. Come, sirs; what, shall I neuer haue you finde out *Amadine* and the shepheard?

Clo. And I haue bin through the woods, and through the woods, and could see nothing but an emet. 5

R. Why, I see thousand emets; thou meanest a little one?

Clo. Nay, that emet that I saw was bigger then thou art. 9

R. Bigger then I? what a foole haue you to your man: I pray you, maister, turne him away.

Se. But dost thou heare? was he not a man?

Clo. (I) thinke he was, for he saide he did lead a saltseller life about the woods.

Se. Thou wouldest say a solitarie life about the woods. 16

Clo. I thinke it was so, indeed.

R. I thought what a foole thou art.

Clo. Thou art a wise man! why, he did nothing but sleepe since he went. 20

Se. But tell me, Mouse, how did he goe?

Clo. In a whit gowne and a whit hat on his head, and a staffe in his hande.

Se. I thought so: it was a hermit that walked a solitarie life in the woods. Well, get you to dinner, and after neuer leaue seeking til you bring some newes of them, or ile hang you both. [Exit. 25

Clo. How now, Rombelo? what shall we do now? 30

R. Faith, ile home to dinner, and afterwarde to sleepe.

Clo. Why, then, thou wilt be hanged.

R. Faith, I care not, for I know I shal neuer find them: wel, ile once more abroad, & if I cannot find them, ile neuer come home againe.

Clo. I tel thee what, Rombelo, thou shalt go in at one end of the wood and I at the other, and wee wil meete both together at the midst.

R. Content! lets awaie to dinner. [Exeunt.

(ACT V.

SCENE I. *The Forest.*)*Enter Mucedorus solus.*

Mu. Vnknowne to any heere within these woods

With bloodie *Bremo* do I lead my life.

The monster, he doth murther all he meets,

Scene IV. *Preceding Scene continued* T 3 And
om. Q 8 ff. 6 a thousand Q 3, etc. thou. one add.
to *Clown's* speech WP 13 I add. Q 8 14 Salt-
sellers Q 3, etc. 17 so it was Q 6 ff. 25 Prefix
Se. reported before Well Q 1 39 at Q 1: in Q 3, etc.
Act V, Scene I. pr. ed.: Scene V. WP

He spareth none and none doth him escape.
Who would continue, who but onely I, 5
In such a cruell cutthroates company?
Yet *Amadine* is there; how can I choose?
Ah, sillie soule, how often times she sits
And sighes, and cals: 'come, shepheard, come,
Sweete *Mucedorus*, come and set me free;' 10
When *Mucedorus* present standes her by:
But here she comes.

Enter Amadine.

What newes, faire *Ladie*, as you walke these woods.

Ama. Ah, hermit, none but bad & such as thou knowest.

Mu. How doe you like your *Bremo* and his woods? 15

Ama. Not my *Bremo* nor *Bremo* his woods.

Mu. And why not yours? me thinks he loues you wel.

Ama. I like him not, his loue to me is nothing worth.

Mu. *Ladie*, in this me thinkes you offer wrong,

To hate the man that euer loues you best. 20

Ama. Ah hermit, I take no pleasure in his loue;

Neither yet doth *Bremo* like me best.

Mu. Pardon my boldnes, faire *ladie*: sith we both

May safely talke now out of *Bremos* sight,
Vnfold to me, if so you please, the full dis-
course 25

How, when, and why you came into these woods,

And fell into this blodie butchers hands.

Ama. Hermit, I wil;

Of late a worthie shepheard I did loue.

Mu. A shepheard, lady? sure a man vnfit
To match with you. 31

Ama. Hermit, this is true, and when we had—

Mu. Staie there, the wild man comes.

Refferre the rest vntill another time.

Enter Bremo.

(Bre.) What secret tale is this? what whisper-
ing haue wee heere? 35

Villaine, I charge the tell thy tale againe.

Mu. If needes I must, loe, here it is againe:
When as we both had lost the sight of thee,
It greud vs both, but specially thy queene,
Who in thy absence euer feares the worst, 40

11 present Haz.: pesent Q 1: Peasant Q 3 ff.
S. D. after 13 Q 1 14 as om. WP 16 *Bremo* his
pr. ed.: his *Bremo* Q 9: my *Bremo's* Elze: *Bremo's*
Haz. 18 wroth Q 1 33 men Q 1 34 Defer Way.
35 Bre. add. Q 3 37 If Q 3, etc.: I Q 1

Least some mischance befall your royall grace.
'Shall my sweete *Bremo* wander through the woods?

Toile to and fro for to redresse my want,
Hazard his life; and all to cherishe me?
I like not this,' quoth she, 45
And thereupon craude to know of me
If I could teach her handle weapons well.
My aunswer was I had small skill therein,
But glad, most mightie king, to learne of thee.
And this was all. 50

Bre. Wast so? none can dislike of this.
Ile teach
You both to fight: but first, my queene, begin.
Here, take this weapon; see how thou canst vse it.

Ama. This is to big, I cannot weeld it in my arme.

Bre. Ist so? weele haue a knotty crabtree staffe 55
For thee.—But, sirra, tell me, what saist thou?

Mu. With all my heart I willing am to learne.

Bre. Then take my stafe & see how canst weeld it.

Mu. First teach me how to hold it in my hand.

Bre. Thou houldest it well. 60
Looke how he doth; thou maist the sooner learne.

Mu. Next tell me how and when tis best to strike.

Bre. Tis best to strike when time doth serue,
Tis best to loose no time.

Mu. Then now or neuer is my time to strike. (*Aside.*)

Bre. And when thou strikest, be sure thou hit the head. 66

Mu. The head?

Bre. The verie heade.

Mu. Then haue at thine! [*he striks him downe deade.*] So, lie there and die,

A death no dout according to desert, 70
Or else a worse as thou deseruest a worse.

Ama. It glads my heart this tirants death to see.

Mu. Now, ladie, it remains in you
To end the tale you latelie had begunne,
Being interrupted by this wicked wight. 75
You said you loued a shepheard.

Ama. I, so I doe, and none but only him,
And will do stil as long as life shall last.

43 wants *Haz.* 46 she crav'd *Haz.* 51 Whast
Q 1 Line ends this Qq 55 Line ends thee Qq 65
is my Q 1 ff.: it is Q 8 ff. 66 thou hit Q 1: to hit
Q 3, 8 ff.: to hid Q 4: to hide Q 5, 6 73-5 Prose Q 1

Mu. But tell me, ladie; sith I set you free,
What course of life do you intend to take? 80

Ama. I wil disguised wander through the world,

Til I haue found him out.

Mu. How if you find your shephard in these woods?

Ama. Ah, none so happie then as *Amadine*.
He discloseth himselfe.

Mu. In tract of time a man may alter much;
Say, Ladie, doe you know your shepheard well?

Ama. My *Mucedorus*! hath he set me free?
(*Mu.*) *Mucedorus* he hath set thee free.

Ama. And liued so long vnknowne to *Amadine*!

Mu. Ay thats a question where of you may not be resolued. 91

You know that I am banisht from the court;
I know likewise each passage is beset,

So that we cannot long escape vnknowne:
There fore my will is this, that we returne 95

Right through the thickets to the wild mans caue,

And there a while liue on his prouision,
Vntil the search and narrow watch be past.

This is my counsel, and I thinke it best.

Ama. I thinke the verie same. 100

Mu. Come, lets begone.

[*Enter*] The Clowne (*who*) searches and falsouer the wild man and so carry him away.

Clo. Nay, soft, sir; are you heere? a bots on you! I was like to be hanged for not finding you. We would borrow a certaine stray kings daughter of you: a wench, a wench, sir, we would haue. 106

Mu. A wench of me! ile make the eate my sword.

Clo. Oh Lord! nay, and you are so lustie,
Ile cal a cooling card for you. Ho, maister, maister, come away quicklie. 111

Enter Segasto.

Se. Whats the matter?

Cl. Looke, maister, *Amadine* & the shepheard: oh, braue! 114

Se. What, minion, haue I found you out?

Clo. Nay, thats a lie, I found her out myselfe.

Se. Thou gadding huswife,

What cause hadst thou to gad abroade,

When as thou knowest our wedding day so nie?

Ama. Not so, *Segasto*, no such thing in hand; 120

Shew your assurance, then ile answer you.

84 *S. D.* discloseth Q 6, etc.: disguiseth Q 1-5 88

Mu. add. pr. ed. *Mucedorus* he Q 1: *Muc.* He Q 3 ff.

101 *S. D.* Enter, who add. *Haz.*

Se. Thy fathers promise my assurance is.

Ama. But what he promist he hath not performde.

Se. It rests in thee for to performe the same.

Ama. Not I. 125

Se. And why?

Ama. So is my will, and therefore euen so.

Clo. Maister, with a nonie, nonie, noe!

Se. A, wicked villane, art thou here?

Mu. What needes these wordes? we way them not. 130

Se. We way them not, proud shepheard! I skorne thy companie.

Clo. Weele not haue a corner of thy companie.

Mu. I scorne not thee, nor yet the least of thine.

Clo. Thats a lie, a would haue kild me with his pugnsondo. 135

Se. This stoutnesse, *Amadine*, contents me not.

Ama. Then seeke an other that may you better please.

Mu. Well, *Amadine*, it onelie rests in thee Without delay to make thy choice of three:

There stands *Segasto*, here a shepheard stands, There stands the third; now make thy choise.

Clo. A Lord at the least I am. 142

Am. My choise is made, for I will none but thee.

Se. A worthy mate, no doubt, for such a wife.

Mu. And, *Amadine*, why wilt thou none but me? 145

I cannot keepe thee as thy father did; I haue no landes for to maintaine thy state.

Moreouer, if thou meane to be my wife, Commonly this must be thy vse:

To bed at midnight, vp at fowre, 150

Drudge all daie and trudge from place to place,

Whereby our dailie vittell for to winne;

And last of al, which is the worst of all,

No princes then but plaine a shepherds wife.

Clo. Then, god ge you god morrow, goody shepheard! 155

Ama. It shall not neede; if *Amadine* do liue,

Thou shalt be crowned king of *Arragon*.

Clo. Oh, maister, laugh! when hees King, then ile be a queene.

Mu. Then know that which nere tofore was known: 160

I am no shepheard, no *Arragonian* I, But borne of Royall blood—my fathers of

128 nonny, nonny, no Haz.: none, none, noe Q 1-4 : none, none so Q 5 ff. 129 villant Q 1 134 with his] with's Q 14, 15 140 here . . stands Q 1-6 : a second here Q 8 ff. 151 all the day WP 154 plaine a Q 1-5 : a plaine Q 6 ff.

Valentia King, my mother queene—who for Thy secret sake tooke this hard task in hand.

Ama. Ah how I ioy my fortune is so good.

Se. Well now I see, *Segasto* shall not speede;

But, *Mucedorus*, I as much do ioy, 167

To see thee here within our Court of *Arragon*, As if a kingdom had befallne me. This time

I with my heart surrender it to thee,

He giueth her vnto him.

And loose what right to *Amadine* I haue. 171

Clo. What (a) barnes doore, and borne where my father

Was custnab! a bots on thee, how dost thee?

Mu. Thanks, *Segasto*; but yet you leueld at the crowne.

Clo. Maister, beare this and beare all. 175

Se. Why so, sir?

Clo. He saies you take a goose by the crowne.

Se. Go to, sir: away, post you to the king, Whose hart is fraught with carefull doubtts,

Glad him vp and tell him these good newes, And we will follow as fast as we may. 181

Clo. I goe, maister; I runne, maister.

[Exeunt.]

(SCENE II. Open Place near the Court of the King of *Arragon*.)

Enter the King and Collen.

K. Break, heart, and end my paled woes, My *Amadine*, the comfort of my life,

How can I ioy except she were in sight?

Her absence breeds sorrow to my soule

And with a thunder breakes my heart in twaine. 5

Col. Forbeare those passions, gentle King, And you shall see twill turne vnto the best,

And bring your soule to quiet and to ioie.

K. Such ioie as death, I do assure me that,

And naught but death, vnlesse of her I heare,

And that with speede; I cannot sigh thus

long— 11

But what a tumult doe I heare within?

The crie within, 'ioie and happinesse!'

Col. I heare a noyse of ouer-passing ioie Within the court; my Lord, be of good comfort—

And heere comes one in hast. 15

162-3 End Valentia, sake Q 1 : King, sake Q 3 ff. : corr. pr. ed. 169 me this Q 1, etc. 170 it Q 1 : her Q 3 ff. 171 loose Haz. : looke Qq 172 a add. Haz. 173 thee Q 1-6 : thou Q 8 ff. 177 saies] sees sees Q 1 : sees Q 3-6 : says Q 8, etc. Scene II. pr. ed. : Act V, Scene I. WP 3 in my sight Q 14, 15 4 breeds Q 1-6 : breeds great Q 8 ff. : breedeth WP 6, 13 Prefix. Clo. Q 1 S. D. The Q 1, 8 : They Q 3 ff. happinesse] gladness Q 14, 15

Enter the Clowne running.

Clo. A King! a King! a King!

Col. Why, how now, sirra? whats the matter?

Clo. O, tis newes for a king, 'tis woorth money.

K. Why, sirra, thou shalt haue siluer and gold if it bee good.

Clo. O, tis good, tis good. *Amadine*— 20

K. Oh, what of her? tell me, & I will make thee a knight.

Clo. How a spright? no, by ladie, I will not be a spright. Maisters, get ye away; if I be a spright, I shall be so leane I shall make you all afraide. 25

Col. Thou sot, the King meanes to make thee a gentleman.

Clo. Why, I shall want parrell.

King. Thou shalt want for nothing.

Clo. Then stand away, trick vp thy selfe: heere they come.

Enter Segasto, Mucedorus, and Amadine.

Ama. My gracious father, pardon thy disloyal daughter. 30

K. What do mine eies be hould? my daughter *Amadine*?

Rise vp, dere daughter & let these, my embrasing armes,

Shew some token of thy fathers ioie,

Which euer since thy departure hath languished in sorrow.

Ama. Deare father, neuer were your sorrows Greater then my griefes, 36

Neuer you so desolate as I comfortlesse; Yet, neuerthelesse, acknowledging my selfe

To be the cause of both, on bended knees I humble craue your pardon. 40

King. Ile pardon thee, deare daughter: but as for him—

Ama. Ah, father, what of him?

King. As sure as I am a king, and weare the crowne,

I will reuenge on that accursed wretch.

Mu. Yet, worthy prince, worke not thy will in wrath; 45

Shew fauour.

K. I, such fauour as thou deseruest.

Mu. I do deserue the daughter of a king.

K. Oh, impudent! a shepheard and so insolent! 49

Mu. No shepheard I, but a worthy prince.

King. In farre conceit, not princelie borne.

Mu. Yes, princely borne: my father is a king,

My mother Queene, and of Valentia both.

K. What, *Mucedorus*! welcome to our court.

What cause hadst thou to come to me disguised? 55

Mu. No cause to feare; I caused no offence

But this:

Desiring thy daughters vertues for to see

Disguised my selfe from out my fathers court.

Vnknown to any, in secret I did rest, 60

And passed many troubles neere to death;

So hath your daughter my partaker bin,

As you shall know heereafter more at large,

Desiring you, you will giue her to mee, 64

Euen as mine owne and soueraigne of my life;

Then shall I thinke my trauels are wel spent.

King. With all my heart, but this—

Segasto claimes my promise made to fore,

That he should haue her as his onely wife,

Before my counsel when we came from war.

Segasto, may I craue thee let it passe, 71

And giue *Amadine* as wife to *Mucedorus*?

Se. With all my heart, were it far a greater thing,

And what I may to furnish vp there rites

With pleasing sports and pastimes you shall see. 75

King. Thanks, good *Segasto*, I will thinke of this.

Mu. Thanks, good my Lord, & while I liue

Account of me in what I can or maie.

Ama. And, good *Segasto*, these great curtesies

Shall not be forgot. 80

Clo. Why, harke you, maister: bones, what haue you done? What, giuen away the wench you made me take such paines for? you are wise indeed! mas, and I had knowne of that I would haue had her my selfe! faith, master, now wee maie goe to breakefast with a wood-coke pie. 87

Se. Goe, sir, you were best leaue this knauerie.

K. Come on, my Lordes, lets now to court,

Where we may finish vp the ioyfullest daie

That euer hapt to a distressed King, 91

[Were but thy Father, the Valencia Lord,

Present in view of this combining knot.

23, 24 spright Q 3 ff.: spirit (spirrit) Q 1 32
dere om. Q 8 ff. my om. Q 4 ff. 33 father Q 1
35 Prefer Mu. Q 1 38 acknowledging Q 1 ff.: know-
ing Q 8 ff. 43 a om. Q 3, etc. 47 as om. WP
50 am I Haz. but am a Col.

51 farre Q 1: faire Q 3, etc. 66 are Q 1-6: all
Q 8 ff. 73 far a Q 1: a far Q 3, etc. 92, etc. add. Q 3
For the concluding lines of the scene in Q 1 cf. Appendix,
p. 126 93 combined Q 4 ff.

A shout within. Enter a Messenger.

What shout was that?

Mes. My Lord, the great Valencia King,
Newly arriued, intreats your presence. 96

Mu. My Father?

King A. Prepared welcomes giue him enter-
tainment:

A happier Planet neuer raigned then that,
Which gouernes at this houre. [Sound.

*Enter the King of Valencia, Anselmo, Rodrigo,
Borachius, with others; the King runnes
and imbraces his Sonne*

King V. Rise, honour of my age, food to
my rest: 101

Condemne not (mightie King of Aragon)
My rude behauiour, so compeld by Nature,
That manners stood vnknownedged.

King A. What we haue to recite would
tedious prooue 105

By declaration; therefore, in, and feast:
To morrow the performance shall explaine,
What Words conceale; till then, Drummes
speake, Belles ring,

Giue plausiue welcomes to our brother King.

*Sound Drummes and Trumpets. Exeunt
omnes.]*

(EPILOGUE.)

Enter Comedie and Enuie.

Comedie. How now, *Enuie*? what, blushest
thou all readie?

Peepe forth, hide not thy head with shame,
But with a courage praise a womans deeds.
Thy threates were vaine, thou couldst doe me
no hurt.

Although thou seemdst to crosse me with
despite, 5

I ouerwhelme, and turnde vpside downe thy
blocke

And made thy selfe to stumble at the same.

En. Though stumbled, yet not ouerthrowne.
Thou canst not draw my heart to mildenesse;
Yet must I needes confesse thou hast don
well, 10

And plaide thy part with merth and pleasant
glee:

Saie all this, yet canst thou not conquer mee;
Although this time thou hast got—yet not the
conquest neither—

A double reuenge another time ile haue.

98 Prepare a welcome *Flze* welcomes: giue *Q 3*:
corr. Q 5 S. D. Barachius *Q 3-6*: Barachius *Q 5-12*:
Barachius *Q 15* 104 unacknowledged *Col.* WP 109
plausiue *Qq*: pleasant *Col.* Epilogue WP 5
seemest *Q 1-8*

[*Com.* Enuie, spit thy gall; 15
Plot, worke, contriue; create new fallacies,
Teame from thy Wombe each minute a blacke
Traytor,

Whose blood and thoughts haue twins con-
ception:

Studie to act deedes yet vnchronicled,
Cast natue Monsters in the moldes of Men, 20
Case vicious Diuels vnder sancted Rochets,
Vnhaspe the Wicket where all periureds roost,
And swarme this Ball with treasons: doe thy
worst;

Thou canst not (hel-hound) crosse my steare
to night,

Nor blind that glorie, where I wish delight. 25
Enu. I can, I will.

Com. Neffarious Hagge, begin,
And let vs tugge, till one the mastrie winne.

Enu. Comedie, thou art a shallow Goose;
Ile ouerthrow thee in thine owne intent, 30
And make thy fall my Comick merriment.

Com. Thy pollicie wants grautie; thou art
Too weake. Speake, Fiend, as how?

Enu. Why, thus:
From my foule Studie will I hoyst a Wretch,
A leane and hungry Meager Canniball, 36
Whose iawes swell to his eyes with chawing
Malice:

And him Ile make a Poet.

Com. What's that to th' purpose?

Enu. This scrambling Rauens, with his
needie Beard, 40

Will I whet on to write a Comedie,
Wherein shall be compos'd darke sentences,
Pleasing to factious braines:
And euery other where place me a Iest,
Whose high abuse shall more torment then
blowes: 45

Then I my selfe (quicker then Lightning)
Will flie me to a puisant Magistrate,
And waighting with a Trencher at his backe,
In midst of illittie, rehearse those gaules, 50
(With some additions)
So lately vented in your Theator.

He, vpon this, cannot but make complaint,
To your great danger, or at least restraint.

Com. Ha, ha, ha! I laugh to heare thy
folly;

This is a trap for Boyes, not Men, nor such, 55

15-end add. *Q 2*. For the conclusion of the play in *Q 1*
cf. Appendix, p. 126 18 twin *Haz.* 21 sainted
Wag. Rochets *Q 3-6*: robes *Q 5 ff.* 22 Unclasp *Col.*
wicked WP periureds *Q 3-6*: periures *Q 8*: peri-
uries *Q 9 ff.* 31 Comiet *Q 3* 32 Ends weake *Qq*:
corr. WP 36 Meager *Q 5 ff.* Neager *Q 3. 4*: negro
Haz. 50-1 One line *Qq*, etc. 51 So lately an in-
terpolation according to Simpson 53 your *Q 2-6*:
our *Q 5 ff.*

Especially desertfull in their doings,
Whose stay'd discretion rules their purposes.
I and my faction doe eschew those vices.
But see, O seel the weary Sunne for rest
Hath laine his golden compasse to the
West, 60

Where he perpetuall bide and euer shine,
As Dauids of-spring, in his happy Clime.
Stoope, Enuie, stoope, bow to the Earth with
mee,
Lets begge our Pardons on our bended knee.

They kneele.

Enu. My Power has lost her Might; Enuies
date's expired. 65
Yon splendent Maiestie hath feld my sting,
And I amazed am. *Fall downe and quake.*

60 to Qq: in Col. 62 his Qq: this Col. 64
pardon Q 9 ff. 65 and Envy's WP 66 om. Q 4 ff.

Com. Glorious and wise Arch-Cæsar on
this earth,

At whose appearance, Enuie's stroken dumbe,
And all bad thinges cease operation: 70
Vouchsafe to pardon our vnwilling errour,
So late presented to your Gracious view,
And weele endeouour with excesse of paine,
To please your senses in a choyser straine.
Thus we commit you to the armes of Night, 75
Whose spangled carkasse would, for your
delight,

Striue to excell the Day; be blessed, then:
Who other wishes, let him neuer speake.

Enu. Amen. 79
To Fame and Honour we commend your rest;
Liue still more happie, every houre more blest.

FINIS.]

76 carkasse Qq: darkness Col.

APPENDIX TO MVCEDORVS

In Act V, Scene I, and the Epilogue, Q 1 has different endings, given below.

After line 91 of Act V, Scene I.

With mirth and ioy and greate solemnitie,
Weele finish vp these hymens rightes most
pleasantlie.

Clo. Hoe, Lordes, at the first, I am one to;
but heare, maister King, by your leaue, a cast:
now you haue done with them, I praie you
begin with me. 96

K. Why, what wouldest thou haue?

Clo. O you forgot! now, a little apparrell to
makes handsome: what, should Lordes goe so
beggerlie as I doe? 100

K. What I did promise thee, I will performe;
attende on mee. Come, lets depart.

They all speake.

Weele waite on you with all our hearts.

Clo. And with a peece of my liuer to.

[*Exeunt omnes.*]

After line 14 of the Epilogue.

Co. Then, cattife cursed, stoope vpon thy
knee,

Yeele to a woman, though not to mee,
And pray we both together with our hearts,

That she thrice Nestors yeares may with vs rest,
And from her foes high God defend her still,
That they against her may neuer worke thir
will. 20

En. Enuie, were he neuer so stoute,
Would becke and bowe vnto her maiestie.
Indeede, *Comedie*, thou hast ouerrunne me
now.

And forst me stoope vnto a womans swaie.
God grant her grace amongst vs long may
raigne, 25
And those that would not haue it soe,
Would that by enuie soone their heartes they
might forgoe.

Co. The Counsell, Nobles, and this Realme,
Lord guide it stil with thy most holy hand;
The Commons and the subiectes grant them
grace, 30

Their prince to serue, her to obey, & treason
to deface:

Long maie sheraine, in ioy and greate felicitie!
Each Christian heart do saie amen with me.

[*Exeunt.*]

FINIS.

20 wooke Q 1 28 Noble Q 1

The first part
Of the true and hono-
rable historie, of the life of Sir
John Old-castle, the good
Lord Cobham.

*As it hath been lately acted by the right
honorable the Earle of Nottingham
Lord high Admirall of England his
servants.*



L O N D O N

Printed by V.S. for Thomas Pauier, and are to be solde at
his shop at the signe of the Catte and Parrots
neere the Exchange.

1 6 0 0.

- Q 1* = Anonymous quarto of 1600
Q 2 = Quarto bearing Shakespeare's name, 1600
F 1 = (Third) Shakespeare Folio, 1664
F 2 = (Fourth) „ „ 1685
R = Rowe, 1709
M = Malone, 1780
Th. = Theobald, *ibid.*
St. = Steevens, *ibid.*
S = Simms, 1848
T = Tyrrell, 1851
Haz. = Hazlitt, 1852
pr. ed. = present editor

THE TRVE AND HONORABLE HISTORIE OF THE LIFE OF
SIR IOHN OLDCASTLE,
 THE GOOD LORD COBHAM

(The Actors Names in the History of Sir *John Oldcastle.*

King Henry the fifth.
Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham.
Harpool, Servant to the Lord Cobham.
Lord Herbert, with Gough his man.
Lord Powis, with Owen and Davy his men.
The Mayor of Hereford, and Sheriff of Here-
fordshire, with Baylijfs and Servants.
Two Judges of Assize.
The Bishop of Rochester and Clun his
Sumner.
Sir John the Parson of Wrotham, and Doll his
Concubine.
The Duke of Suffolk.
The Earl of Huntington.
The Earl of Cambridge.
Lord Scroop and Lord Grey.

Chartres the French Agent.
Sir Roger Acton.
Sir Richard Lee.
M. Bourn, M. Beverly, and Murley the Brewer
of Dunstable, rebels.
M. Butler, Gentleman of the Privy Chamber.
Lady Cobham and Lady Powis.
Cromer, Sheriff of Kenf.
Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.
Lieutenant of the Tower.
The Mayor, Constable, and Goaler of S. Albans.
A Kentish Constable and an Ale-man.
Soldiers and old men begging.
Dick and Tom, servants to Murley.
An Irishman.
An Host, Hostler, a Carrier and Kate.)

THE PROLOGUE.

The doubtful Tittle (Gentlemen) prefix
Vpon the Argument we haue in hand,
May breede suspence, and wrongfully disturbe
The peacefull quiet of your selled thoughts.
To stop which scruple, let this brieife suffice:
It is no pamperd glutton we present,
Nor aged Councillor to youthfull sinne,
But one, whose vertue shone aboue the rest,
A valiant Martyr and a vertuous peere;
In whose true faith and loyaltie exprest
Vnto his soueraigne, and his countries weale,
We strine to pay that tribute of our Loue,
Your fauours merite. Let faire Truth be grac'te,
Since forg'de inuention former time defac'te.

(ACT I.

SCENE I. *Hereford. A street.*

Enter lord Herbert, lord Powis, Owen, Gough,
Davy, and several other followers of the
lords Herbert and Powis; they fight.) In
the fight, enter the Sheriffe and two of his
men.

Sheriffe. My Lords, I charge ye in his High-
 nesse name,
 To keepe the peace, you, and your followers.
Herb. Good M(aister) Sheriffe, look vnto
 your self.

The Actors Names, etc. add. F 1 *Act I. etc. add. M*

Pow. Do so, for we haue other busnesse.
Proffer to fight againe.
Sher. Will ye disturbe the Iudges, and the
 Assise? 5
Heare the Kings proclamation, ye were
best.
Pow. Hold then, lets heare it.
Herb. But be brieife, ye were best.
Bayl. Oyes!
Dauy. Cossone, make shorter O, or shall
 marre your Yes. 10
Bay. Oyes!
Owen. What, has her nothing to say but O
 yes?
Bay. Oyes!
Da. O nay! pye Cosse plut downe with her,
 down with her! A Pawesse! a Pawesse! 15
Gough. A Herbert! a Herbert! and downe
 with Powesse!
Helter skelter againe.
Sher. Hold, in the Kings name, hold.
Owen. Downe i' tha knaues name, downe.
In this fight, the Bailife is knocked downe, and
the Sheriffe and the other runne away.
Herb. Powesse, I thinke thy Welsh and thou
 do smart.
Pow. Herbert, I thinke my sword came
 neere thy heart. 20
 18 e tha knaues Q 1 : with a kanaues Q 2

Herb. Thy hearts best bloud shall pay the losse of mine.

Gough. A Herbert! a Herbert!

Dauy. A Pawesse! a Pawesse!

As they are lifting their weapons, enter the Maior of Hereford, and his Officers and Townes-men with clubbes.

Maior. My Lords, as you are liege men to the Crowne,

True noblemen, and subiects to the King, 25
Attend his Highnesse proclamation,
Commaunded by the Iudges of Assise,
For keeping peace at this assemblie.

Herb. Good M(aister) Maior of Hereford be briefe.

Mai. Serieant, without the ceremonie of Oyes, 30

Pronounce alowd the proclamation.

Ser. The Kings Iustices, perceiuing what publique mischief may ensue this priuate quarrel, in his maiesties name do straightly charge and commaund all persons, of what degree soeuer, to depart this cittie of Hereford, except such as are bound to giue attendance at this Assise, and that no man presume to weare any weapon, especially welsh-hookes, forrest billes— 40

Owen. Haw, no pill nor wells hoog? ha?

Ma. Peace, and heare the proclamation.

Ser. And that the Lord Powesse do presently disperse and discharge his retinue, and depart the cittie in the Kings peace, he and his followers, on paine of imprisonment. 46

Dauy. Haw? pud her Lord Pawesse in prison! A Pawes!

A Pawesse! cossonne liue and tie with her Lord.

Gough. A Herbert! a Herbert!

In this fight the Lord Herbert is wounded, and fals to the ground; the Maior and his company goe away, crying clubbes; Powesse runnes away; Gough and other of Herberts faction busie themselves about Herbert: enters the two Iudges in their robes, the Sheriffe and his Bailiffes afore them, &c.

1. *Iud.* Where's the Lord Herbert? is he hurt or slaine? 50

Sher. Hee's here, my Lord.

2. *Iud.* How fares his Lordshippe, friends?
Gough. Mortally wounded, speechlesse; he cannot liue.

1. *Iud.* Conuay him hence; let not his wounds take ayre,

S. D. lifting their weapons] fighting *Q 2*, etc. 48
cossonne] cosson her will *Q 2*, etc.

And get him dress'd with expedition. 55

[*Ex. Herb. & Gough.*

M(aister) Maior of Hereford, M(aister) Shriue o' th shire,

Commit Lord Powesse to safe custodie,
To answer the disturbance of the peace,
Lord Herberts perill, and his high contempt
Of vs, and you the Kings commissioners. 60
See it be done with care and diligence.

Sher. Please it your Lordship, my Lord Powesse is gone

Past all recovery.

2. *Iud.* Yet let search be made,
To apprehend his followers that are left. 65

Sher. There are some of them. Sirs, lay hold of them.

Owen. Of vs? and why? what has her done, I pray you?

Sher. Disarme them, Bailiffes.

Ma. Officers, assist.

Dauy. Heare you, Lor shudge, what resson is for this? 70

Owen. Cosson pe puse for fighting for our Lord?

1. *Iudge.* Away with them.

Dauy. Harg you, my Lord.

Owen. Gough my Lorde Herberts man's a shitten ka-naue,

Dauy. Ise liue and tie in good quarrell. 75

Owen. Pray you do shustice; let awl be preson.

Dauy. Prison! no.

Lord shudge, I wooll giue you pale, good suerty.

2. *Iudge.* What Bale? what suerties? 79

Dauy. Her coozin ap Ries, ap Euan, ap Morrice, ap Morgan, ap Lluellyn, ap Madoc, ap Meredith, ap Griffen, ap Dauy, ap Owen, ap Shinken Shones.

2 *Iudge.* Two of the most sufficient are ynow.

Sher. And 't please your Lordship, these are al but one. 85

1. *Iudge.* To Iayle with them, and the Lord Herberts men;

Weele talke with them, when the Assise is done. [*Exeunt.*

Riotous, audacious, and vnruely Groomes,
Must we be forced to come from the Bench,
To quiet brawles, which euery Constable 90
In other ciuill places can suppress?

2. *Iudge.* What wasthe quarrel that causede all this stirre?

66 of *Q 2*, etc.: on *Q 1* 74 shotten *Haz.* 83 ap Skinken, ap Shones *M*

Sher. About religion, as I heard, my Lord.
Lord Powesse detracted from the power of
Rome,

Affirming Wickliffes doctrine to be true, 95
And Romes erroneous. Hot reply was made
By the lord Herbert, they were traytors all
That would maintaine it: Powesse answered,
They were as true, as noble, and as wise
As he, that would defend it with their liues;
He namde for instance sir Iohn Old-castle 101
The Lord Cobham: Herbert replide againe,
"He, thou, and all are traitors that so hold."
The lie was giuen, the seuerall factions drawne,
And so enragde, that we could not appease it.

1. *Iudge.* This case concernes the Kings
prerogatiue, 106
And's dangerous to the State and common
wealth.

Gentlemen, Iustices, master Maior, and master
Shrieue,

It doth behoue vs all, and each of vs
In generall and particular, to haue care 110
For the suppressing of all mutinies,
And all assemblies, except souldiers musters
For the Kings preparation into France.

We heare of secret conuenticles made,
And there is doubt of some conspiracies, 115
Which may breake out into rebellious armes
When the King's gone, perchance before he go:
Note as an instance, this one perillous fray;
What factions might haue growne on either
part,

To the destruction of the King and Realme. 120
Yet, in my conscience, sir Iohn Old-castle,
Innocent of it, onely his name was vsde.
We, therefore, from his Highnesse giue this
charge:

You, maister Maior, looke to your citizens;
You, maister Sherife, vnto your shire; and you
As Iustices, in euery ones precinct, 126
There be no meetings. When the vulgar sort
Sit on their Ale-bench, with their cups and
kannes,

Matters of state be not their common talke,
Nor pure religion by their lips prophande. 130
Let vs returne vnto the Bench againe,
And there examine further of this fray.

Enter a Bailly and a Serieant.

Sher. Sirs, haue ye taken the lord Powesse
yet?

Ba. No, nor heard of him.

Ser. No, hee's gone farre enough. 135

2. *Iu.* They that are left behind shall
answer all. [Exeunt.]

100 that] they *M* 107 And 'tis *Q 2*, etc. 121
Oldcastle's *Fy*

SCENE II. *Eltham. An antechamber in the
palace.*

*Enter Suffolke, Bishop of Rochester, Butler,
parson of Wrotham.*

Suffolke. Now, my lord Bishop, take free
liberty

To speake your minde: what is your sute to vs?
Bishop. My noble Lord, no more than what
you know,

And haue bin oftentimes inuested with:
Griuenous complaints haue past betweene the
lippes 5

Of enuious persons to vpbraide the Cleargy,
Some carping at the liuings which we haue,
And others spurning at the ceremonies
That are of auncient custome in the church.
Amongst the which, Lord Cobham is a chiefe:
What inconuenience may proceede hereof, 11
Both to the King and to the common wealth,
May easily be discern'd, when like a frensie
This innouation shall possesse their mindes.
These vpstarts will haue followers, to vphold 15
Their damnd opinion, more than Harry shall
To vndergoe his quarrell gainst the French.

Suffolke. What proefe is there against them
to be had,

That what you say the law may iustifie?

Bishop. They giue themselues the name of
Protestants, 20

And meete in fields and solitary groues.

Sir Iohn. Was euer heard, my Lord, the like
til now?

That theeues and rebels—s bloud, heretikes,
Playne heretikes, Ile stand toote to their
teeth—

Should haue, to colour their vile practises, 25
A title of such worth as Protestant?

Enter one wyth a letter.

Suf. O, but you must not sweare; it ill
becomes

One of your coate to rappe out bloudy oathes.

Bish. Pardon him, good my Lord, it is his
zeale;

An honest country prelate, who laments 30
To see such foule disorder in the church.

Sir Iohn. Theres one—they call him Sir
Iohn Old-castle—

He has not his name for naught: for like a
castle

Doth he encompass his walls;
But till that castle be subuerted quite, 35

We ne're shall be at quiet in the realme.

Bish. That is our sute, my Lord, that he be
tane,

Scene II. etc. add, *M* 23 s bloud] s'blood, my lord *M*

And brought in question for his heresie.
Beside, two letters brought me out of Wales,
Wherin my Lord Herford writes to me, 40
What tumult and sedition was begun,
About the Lord Cobham at the Sises there,
(For they had much ado the calme the rage),
And that the valiant Herbert is there slaine.

Suf. A fire that must be quencht. Wel, say
no more, 45

The King anon goes to the counsell chamber,
There to debate of matters touching France:
As he doth passe by, He informe his grace
Concerning your petition: Master Butler,
If I forget, do you remember me. 50

But. I will, my Lord. [*Offer him a purse.*

Bish. Not for a recompence,
But as a token of our loue to you,
By me my Lords of the cleargie do present
This purse, and in it full a thousand Angells,
Praying your Lordship to accept their gift. 56

Suf. I thanke them, my Lord Bishop, for
their loue,

But will not take their mony; if you please
To giue it to this gentleman, you may.

Bish. Sir, then we craue your furtherance
herein. 60

But. The best I can, my Lord of Rochester.

Bish. Nay, pray ye take it; trust me but you
shal.

Sir Iohn.—Were ye all three vpon NewMar-
ket heath,
You should not neede straine curtsie who
should ha'te;

Sir Iohn would quickly rid ye of that care. 65

Suf. The King is comming. Feare ye not,
my Lord;

The very first thing I will breake with him
Shal be about your matter.

Enter K. Harry and Huntington in talke.

Har. My Lord of Suffolke,
Was it not saide the Cleargie did refuse 70
To lend vs mony toward our warres in France?

Suf. It was, my Lord, but very wrongfully.

Har. I know it was, for Huntington here
tells me,
They haue bin very bountifull of late.

Suf. And still they vow, my gracious Lord,
to be so, 75

Hoping your maiestie will thinke of them
As of your louing subiects, and suppress
All such malicious errors as begin
To spot their calling, and disturb the church.

40 Herford] Hertford Q 2, Ff: of Hereford conj. M
54 (my Lords) the Clergy doth Q 2, etc. 62 pray
take it, trust me you Q 2, Ff: pray you take it,
trust me sir, you M

Har. God else forbid: why, Suffolke, is
there 80

Any new rupture to disquiet them?

Suf. No new, my Lord; the old is great
enough,

And so increasing as, if not cut downe,
Will breede a scandale to your royall state,
And set your Kingdome quickly in an vp-
roare. 85

The Kentish knight, Lord Cobham, in despight
Of any law, or spirituall discipline,
Maintaines this vpstart new religion still,
And diuers great assemblies by his meanes
And priuate quarrells are commenstabroad, 90
As by this letter more at large, my liege,
Is made apparant.

Har. We do find it here:

There was in Wales a certaine fray of late,
Betweene two noblemen, but what of this? 95
Followes it straight, Lord Cobham must be he
Did cause the same? I dare be sworne, good
knight,

He neuer dreampt of any such contention.

Bish. But in his name the quarrell did
begin,

About the opinion which he held, my liege. 100

Har. How if it did? was either he in place,
To take part with them, or abette them in it?
If brabling fellows, whose inkindled bloud,
Seethes in their fiery vaines, will needes go
fight, 104

Making their quarrells of some words that passt
Either of you, or you, amongst their cuppes,
Is the fault yours, or are they guiltie of it?

Suffolke With pardon of your Highnesse,
my dread lord,

Such little sparkes, neglected, may in time
Grow to a mighty flame: but thats not all; 110
He doth, beside, maintaine a strange religion,
And will not be compell'd to come to masse.

Bish. We do beseech you, therefore, gra-
cious prince,

Without offence vnto your maiesty,

We may be bold to vse authoritie. 115

Harry As how?

Bishop To summon him vnto the Arches,
Where such offences haue their punishment.

Harry To answer personally? is that your
meaning?

Bishop It is, my lord. 120

Harry How, if he appeale?

Bishop He cannot, my Lord, in such a case
as this.

Suffolke Not where Religion is the plea, my
lord.

91-2 One line in Q 2, Ff 101 How] What Q 2, etc.
122 My Lord, he cannot Q 2, etc.

Harry I tooke it alwayes, that our selfe
stoode out,
As a sufficient refuge, vnto whome 125
Not any but might lawfully appeale.
But weele not argue now vpon that poynt.
For sir Iohn Old-castle, whom you accuse,
Let me intreate you to dispence awhile
With your high title of preheminence. 130
[in scorne.]

Report did neuer yet condemne him so,
But he hath alwayes bene reputed loyall:
And in my knowledge I can say thus much,
That he is vertuous, wise, and honourable.
If any way his conscience be seduc'de, 135
To wauer in his faith, Ile send for him,
And schoole him priuately; if that serue not,
Then afterward you may proceede against him.
Butler, be you the messenger for vs,
And will him presently repaire to court. [exeunt.]

sir Iohn How now, my lord, why stand you
discontent? 141
In sooth, me thinkes the King hath well
decreed.

Bishop Yea, yea, sir Iohn, if he would keepe
his word;

But I perceiue he fauours him so much,
As this will be to small effect, I feare. 145

sir Iohn Why, then, Ile tell you what y'are
best to do:

If you suspect the King will be but cold
In reprehending him, send you a processe too
To serue vpon him: so you may be sure
To make him answer't, howsoere it fall. 150

Bishop And well rememberd! I will haue
it so.

A Summer shall be sent about it strait. [Exit.
sir Iohn Yea, doe so. In the meane space
this remaines

For kinde sir Iohn of *Wrotham*, honest Iacke.
Me thinkes the purse of gold the Bishop gaue
Made a good shew; it had a tempting looke.
Beshrew me, but my fingers ends do itch
To be vpon those rudduks. Well, tis thus:
I am not as the worlde does take me for; 159
If euer wolfe were cloathed in sheepes coate,
Then I am he,—olde huddle and twang, yfaith,
A priest in shew, but in plaine termes a theefe.
Yet, let me tell you too, an honest theefe,
One that will take it where it may be sparde,
And spend it freely in good fellowship. 165
I haue as many shapes as *Proteus* had,
That still, when any villany is done,
There may be none suspect it was sir Iohn.
Besides, to comfort me,—for whats this life,

124 out *Har.*: ont *Q1*: on't *Q2*, *Ff* 143 *Yea*.
yea! I. 1 *Q2*, *Ff* 149 you! ye *Q2*, *Ff* 158 those
golden rudducks *Ff*, etc.

Except the crabbed bitternes thereof 170
Be sweetened now and then with lechery?—
I haue my Doll, my concubine, as t'were,
To frolicke with, a lusty bousing gerle.
But whilst I loyter here, the gold may scape,
And that must not be so. It is mine owne; 175
Therefore, Ile meete him on his way to court,
And shriue him of it: there will be the sport.
[Exit.]

(SCENE III. *Kent*. An outer court before
lord Cobham's house.)

Enter three or foure poore people: somesouldiers,
some old men.

1. God help! God help! there's law for
punishing,
But theres no law for our necessity:
There be more stockes to set poore soldiers in,
Than there be houses to releue them at.

Old man. Faith, housekeeping decayes in
euery place, 5
Euen as Saint *Peter* writ, still worse and worse.

4. Maister maior of Rochester has giuen
commaundement, that none shall goe abroade
out of the parish; and they haue set an order
downe forsooth, what euery poore housholder
must giue towards our reliefe: where there be
some ceased, I may say to you, had almost as
much neede to beg as we. 13

1. It is a hard worlde the while.
Old man. If a poore man come to a doore
to aske for Gods sake, they aske him for a
licence, or a certificate from a Iustice.

2. Faith we haue none but what we beare
vpon our bodies, our maimed limbs, God
help vs. 20

4. And yet, as lame as I am, Ile with the
king into France, if I can crawle but a ship-
boorde. I hadde rather be slaine in France,
than statue in England. 24

Olde man. Ha, were I but as lusty as I was
at the battell of Shrewsbury, I would not doe
as I do: but we are now come to the good lord
Cobhams, to the best man to the poore that
is in all Kent.

4. God blesse him! there be but few such. 30

Enter Lord Cobham with Harpoole.

Cob. Thou peeuish, froward man, what
wouldst thou haue?

Harp. This pride, this pride, brings all to
beggarie.

Scene III. *dc. add. M* S. D. Enter foure *Q2*, *Ff*
5 Faith! I *Q2*, *Ff*: Ay R, etc. 8 command *Q2*, etc.
9 and has set down an order *Q2*, etc. 15 man aske
at doore for *Q2*, etc. 22 but crawle *Q2*, etc. 26
at Shrewsbury battel *Q2*, etc. 28 Cobhams, the
Q2, etc. that is om. *Q2*, etc.

I seru'de your father, and your grandfather;
Shew me such two men now!
No! No! Your backes, your backes, the diuell
and pride, 35
Has cut the throate of all good housekeeping.—
They were the best Yeomens masters,
That euer were in England.

Cob. Yea, except thou haue a crue of seely
knaues
And sturdy rogues still feeding at my gate, 40
There is no hospitalitie with thee.

Harp. They may sit at the gate well enough,
but the diuell of any thing you giue them,
except they will eate stones.

Cob. Tis long, then, of such hungry knaues
as you. [pointing to the beggars.
Yea, sir, heres your retinue; your guests be
come. 46

They know their howers, I warrant you.

Old (man). God blesse your honour! God
saue the good Lord Cobham
And all his house!

Soul. Good your honour, bestow your
blessed almes 50
Vpon poore men.

Cob. Now, sir, here be your Almes knights.
Now are you
As safe as the Emperour.

Harp. My Almesknights! nay, th'are yours.
It is a shame for you, and Ile stand too't; 55
Your foolish almes maintaines more vaga-
bonds,

Then all the noblemen in Kent beside.
Out, you rogues, you knaues! worke for your
liuings!—

Alas, poore men! O Lord, they may beg their
hearts out;
Theres no more charitie amongst men then
amongst 60

So many mastiffe dogges!—What make you
here,
You needy knaues? Away, away, you villaines.

2. *soul.* I beseech you, sir, be good to vs.
Cobham Nay, nay, they know thee well
enough. I thinke that all the beggars in this
land are thy acquaintance. Goe bestowe your
almes; none will controule you, sir. 67

Harp. What should I giue them? you are
growne so beggarly, you haue scarce a bitte

of breade to giue at your doore. You talke of
your religion so long, that you haue banished
charitie from amongst you; a man may make
a flaxe shop in your kitchin chimnies, for any
fire there is stirring.

Cobham If thou wilt giue them nothing,
send them hence: let them not stand here
staruing in the colde. 77

Harp. Who! I driue them hence? If I
driue poore men from your doore, Ile be hangd;
I know not what I may come to my selfe. Yea,
God help you, poore knaues; ye see the world,
yfaith! Well, you had a mother: well, God be
with thee, good Lady; thy soule's at rest. She
gaue more in shirts and smocks to poore chil-
dren, then you spend in your house, & yet you
liue a beggar too. 86

Cobham Euen the worst deede that ere my
mother did was in releeuing such a foole as
thou.

Harpoole Yea, yea, I am a foole still. With
all your wit you will die a beggar; go too. 91

Cobham Go, you olde foole; giue the poore
people something. Go in, poore men, into the
inner court, and take such alms as there is to
be had. 95

Souldier God blesse your honor.

Harpoole Hang you, roags, hang you; theres
nothing but misery amongst you; you feare
no law, you. [Exit. 102

Olde man God blesse you, good maister
Rafe, God saue your life; you are good to the
poore still. 102

*Enter the Lord Powes disguised, and shrowde
himselfe.*

Cobham What fellow's yonder comes along
the groue?

Few passengers there be that know this way:
Me thinks he stops as though he stayd for me,
And meant to shrowd himselfe amongst the
bushes. 106

I know the Cleargie hate me to the death,
And my religion gets me many foes:
And this may be some desperate rogue, subornd
To worke me mischief.—As it pleaseth God!
If he come toward me, sure Ile stay his com-
ming— 111

Be he but one man—what soere he be.

The Lord Powis comes on.
I haue beene well acquainted with that face.

Powis Well met, my honorable lord and
friend.

72 amongst om. Q2, etc. 80, 82 yea, yfaith om.
Q2, etc. 81 help ye Q2, etc. 82 well, God! O
God Q2, etc. 90 Yea, yea! 1 Q2 107 hates Q2,
etc. 109-12 Lines end in Q1 rogue; it: sure;
man, be: corr. M

34 Line ends no, no Qy. Ff 34-8 Four lines M, etc.,
ending no, no, your backs; throat; best; England
37 Line ends that Qy, Ff 39 seely] filthy Q2, etc.
45 you] (?) you 48-9 Prose all edd. 52 Ends
knights Qy, Ff: corr. M 54-62 Prose M 59 O
Lord om. Q2, etc. 69-2 Four lines in Qy, Ff, ending
men; dogges; knaues; villaines 60 amongst:
pronounce 'mongst 69, 70 that you can scarce giue
a bit Q2, etc.

Cobham You are welcome, sir, what ere you be; 115
 But of this sodaine, sir, I do not know you.
Powis I am one that wisheth well vnto your honor;
 My name is Powes, an olde friend of yours.
Cobham My honorable lord, and worthy friend,
 What makes your lordship thus alone in Kent,
 And thus disguised in this strange attire? 121
Powis My Lord, an vnexpected accident
 Hath at this time inforc'de me to these parts;
 And thus it hapt:—Not yet ful fūe dayes since,
 Now at the last Assise at Hereford, 125
 It chanst that the lord Herbert and my selfe,
 Mongst other things, discoursing at the table,
 Did fall in speech about some certaine points
 Of *Wickliffes* doctrine gainst the papacie
 And the religion catholique, maintaind 130
 Through the most part of Europe at this day.
 This wilfull teasty lord stucke not to say
 That *Wickliffe* was a knaue, a schismatike,
 His doctrine diuclish and hereticall, 134
 And what soere he was maintaind the same,
 Was traitor both to God and to his country.
 Being moued at his peremptory speech,
 I told him some maintained those opinions,
 Men, and truer subiects then lord Herbert was:
 And he replying in comparisons, 140
 Your name was vrgde, my lord, gainst his
 challenge,
 To be a perfect fauourer of the trueth.
 And to be short, from words we fell to blowes,
 Our seruants and our tenants taking parts—
 Many on both sides hurt—and for an
 houre 145
 The broyle by no meanes could be pacified,
 Vntill the Iudges, rising from the bench,
 Were in their persons forc'de to part the fray.
Cobham I hope no man was violently slaine.
Powis Faith, none, I trust, but the lord
 Herberts selfe, 150
 Who is in truth so dangerously hurt,
 As it is doubted he can hardly scape.
Cobham I am sory, my good lord, of these
 ill newes.
Powis This is the cause that driues me into
 Kent, 154
 To shrowd my selfe with you, so good a friend,
 Vntill I heare how things do speed at home.
Cobham Your lordship is most welcome
 vnto Cobham;
 But I am very sory, my good lord,
 My name was brought in question in this
 matter,

115 very welcome *M* 128 Did *M*: To *Qq*, *Ff*
 139 (?) Truer men and subjects 141 his] this *Ff*

Considering I haue many enemies, 160
 That threaten malice, and do lie in waite
 To take aduantage of the smallest thing.
 But you are welcome: and repose your lordship,
 And keepe your selfe here secret in my house,
 Vntill we heare how the lord Herbert speedes.
 Here comes my man. [*Enter Harpoole*.
Sirra, what newes?

Harpoole Yonders one maister Butler of
 the priuie chamber, is sent vnto you from the
 King. 170

Powis I pray God the lord Herbert be not
 dead,
 And the King, hearing whither I am gone,
 Hath sent for me.

Cob. Comfort your selfe my lord, I warrant
 you. 174

Harpoole Fellow, what ailes thee? doost
 thou quake? dost thou shake? dost thou trem-
 ble? ha?

Cob. Peace, you old foole! *Sirra*, conuey
 this gentleman in the backe way, and bring the
 other into the walke. 180

Harpoole Come, sir; you are welcome, if
 you loue my lorde.

Powis God haue mercy, gentle friend.
 [*exeunt*.]

Cob. I thought as much: that it would not
 be long,
 Before I heard of something from the King
 About this matter. 185

Enter Harpoole with Maister Butler.

Harpoole Sir, yonder my lord walkes, you
 see him;

He haue your men into the Celler the while.

Cobh. Welcome, good maister Butler.

Butler Thanks, my good lord: his Maies-
 tie dooth commend

His loue vnto your lordship, 190

And wils you to repaire vnto the court.

Cobh. God blesse his Highnesse, and con-
 found his ennemies!

I hope his Maiestie is well.

Butler In health, my lord.

Cobh. God long continue it! Mee thinkes
 you looke 195

As though you were not well: what ailes you,
 sir?

Butler Faith, I haue had a foolish odde
 mischance,

162 advantage *Qq*: the vantage *Ff*, etc. 171 I
 om. *Q 2*, etc. the] that the *M* 171-3 *Prose Qq*, *Ff*:
 corr. *M* 182 God haue mercy] Gramercy *Q 2*, etc.
 183-5 *Prose Qq*, *Ff*: corr. *R* 186-7 *Prose M* 189-
 91 *Prose in all edd.* 192-3 *Prose Qq*, *Ff*: corr. *M*
 194 In good health *Ff*, etc. 196 ailes you] ayle ye
Q 2, etc. 197-206 *Prose Qq*, *Ff*: corr. *M*

That angers mee: comming ouer Shooters hill,
There came a fellow to me like a Sailer,
And asked me money; and whilst I staide my
horse 200

To draw my purse, he takes th' aduantage of
A little banck and leapes behind me, whippes
My purse away, and with a sodaine ierke,
I know not how, threw me at least three yards
Out of my saddle. I neuer was so robbed 205
In all my life.

Cobh. I am very sorie, sir, for your mischance.
Wee will send our warrant forth, to stay such
suspitious persons as shal be found. Then,
maister Butler, we will attend you. 210

Butler I humbly thanke your lordship, I
will attend you.

(ACT II.

SCENE I. *The same.*)

Enter the Sumner.

Sum. I haue the law to warrant what I do;
and though the Lord Cobham be a noble man,
that dispenses not with law: I dare serue pro-
cesse there be a fiue noble men. Though we
Sumners make sometimes a mad slip in a
corner with a prettie wench, a Sumner must
not goe alwayes by seeing: a manne may be
content to hide his eies, where he may feele
his profit. Well, this is my Lord Cobhams
house if I can deuise to speake with him; if
not, Ile clap my citation vpon's doore: so my
lord of Rochester bid me. But me thinkes
here comes one of his men. 13

Enter Harpoole.

Harp. Welcome, good fellow, welcome;
who wouldst thou speake with?

Sum. With my lord Cobham I would speake,
if thou be one of his men.

Harp. Yes, I am one of his men, but thou
canst not speake with my lord.

Sum. May I send to him then? 20

Harp. Ile tel thee that, when I know thy
errand.

Sum. I will not tel my errand to thee.

Harp. Then keepe it to thy selfe, and walke
like a knaue as thou camest. 25

Sum. I tell thee, my lord keepe no knaues,
sirra.

Harp. Then thou seruest him not, I beleue:
what lord is thy master?

199 a fellow] one *Q 2, etc.* 200 ask'd my *M* 207-
10 *Verse M* 208 stay all such *M* 210 we'll attend
on you *M* Act II. *etc. add. M* 3-4 serue a pro-
cesse were he *Q 2, etc.* 9 my *om.* *Q 2, etc.* 10
house; if I cannot speake with him, Ile *Q 2, etc.* 12
bad *Q 2, etc.*

Sum. My lord of Rochester. 30
Harp. In good time! And what wouldst
thou haue with my lord Cobham?

Sum. I come, by vertue of a processe, to
ascite him to appeare before my lord in the
court at Rochester. 35

Harp. (aside.) Wel, God grant me patience!
I could eate this conger. My lord is not at
home; therefore it were good, Sumner, you
caried your processe backe.

Sum. Why, if he will not be spoken withall,
then will I leaue it here; and see you that he
take knowledge of it. 42

Harp. Swounds, you slaue, do you set vp
your bills herel go to; take it downe againe.
Dost thou know what thou dost? Dost thou
know on whom thou seruest processe?

Sum. Yes, marry, doe I; Sir Iohn Old-castle,
Lord Cobham. 48

Harp. I am glad thou knowest him yet;
and, sirra, dost not thou know, that the lord
Cobham is a braue lord, that keepees good beefe
and beere in his house, and euery day feedes
a hundred poore people at's gate, and keepees
a hundred tall fellowes?

Sum. Whats that to my processe? 55

Harp. Mary, this, sir! is this processe
parchment?

Sum. Yes, mary.

Harp. And this seale waxe?

Sum. It is so. 60

Harp. If this be parchment, & this wax,
eate you this parchment and this waxe, or I
will make parchment of your skinne, and beate
your brains into waxe: Sirra Sumner, dispatch;
deuoure, sirra, deuoure. 65

Sum. I am my lord of Rochesters Sumner;
I came to do my office, and thou shalt answere
it.

Harp. Sirra, no railing, but betake you to
your teeth. Thou shalt eate no worse then
thou bringst with thee; thou bringst it for my
lord, and wilt thou bring my lord worse then
thou wilt eate thy selfe? 73

Sum. Sir, I brought it not my lord to eate.

Harp. O, do you sir me now? all's one for
that: but ile make you eate it, for bringing it.

Sum. I cannot eate it.

Harp. Can you not? sbloud ile beate you
vntil you haue a stomacke. [*he beates him.*]

Sum. O hold, hold, good master seruing-
man! I will eate it. 81

34 scite *Q 2: cite R* 41 you *om.* *Q 2, Ff* 45
Dost thou] dost thee *Q 1* 46 a processe *Ff, etc.* 47
on Sir Iohn *Q 2, etc.* 50 thou *om.* *Ff.* dost
thou not *M* 53 marry is it *Ff, etc.* 62 this waxe]
wax *Q 2* 69 you] your self *Ff, etc.* 76 but *om.*
Q 2, etc. 79 till *Q 2, etc.*

Harp. Be champping, be chawing, sir; or Ile chaw you, you rogue! the purest of the hony! Tough waxe is the purest of the hony.

Sum. O Lord, sir! oh! oh! [*he eates.*]

Harp. Feed, feed! wholsome, rogue, wholsome! 86

Cannot you, like an honest Sumner, walke with the diuell your brother, to fetch in your Bailiffes rents, but you must come to a noble mans house with processe? Sbloud! if thy seale were as broad as the lead that couers Rochester church, thou shouldst eate it. 92

Sum. O, I am almost choaked! I am almost choaked!

Harp. Who's within there? wil you shame my Lord? is there no beere in the house? Butler! I say. 97

Enter Butler.

But. Heere, here.

Harp. Giue him Beere. [*he drinkes.*]
There; tough old sheepskins bare, drie meate.

Sum. O sir, let me go no further; Ile eate my word. 101

Harp. Yea, mary, sir! so I meane: you shall eate more then your own word, for ile make you eate all the words in the processe. Why, you drab monger, cannot the secrets of al the wenches in a sheire serue your turne, but you must come hither with a citation? with a poxe! Ile cite you. [*He has then done.*] A cup of sacke for the Sumner.

But. Here, sir, here. 110

Harp. Here, slaue, I drinke to thee.

Sum. I thanke you, sir.

Harp. Now if thou findst thy stomacke well—because thou shalt see my Lord keep's meate in's house—if thou wilt go in, thou shalt haue a peece of beefe to thy break fast.

Sum. No, I am very well, good M(aister) seruing-man, I thanke you; very well sir. 118

Harp. I am glad on't. Then be walking towards Rochester to keepe your stomack warme; and Sumner, if I may know you disturb a good wench within this Diocesse; if I do not make thee eate her peticote, if there were four yards of Kentish cloth in't, I am a villaine. 125

Sum. God be with you, M(aister) seruing-maan. (*Exit.*)

Harp. Farewell, Sumner.

84 Tough . . hony given to Sum. *Qq, Ff*: of the om. *Q2, etc.* 83-4 Tough wax is the purest hony. *Sum.* The purest of the hony! *M* 85 O . . oh! given to Harp. *Qq, Ff* 86 tis wholsome Rogue *Q2, etc.* 90 Sbloud om. *Q2, etc.* 100 bare] but conj. *M* 102 so om. *Q2, etc.* 121 may] do *Q2, etc.* 126 with you] wye *Q2, etc.* *S. D. add. Q2*

Enter Constable.

Con. God saue you M(aister) Harpoole.

Harp. Welcome, Constable, welcom, Constable; what news with thee? 130

Con. And't please you, M(aister) Harpoole, I am to make hue and crie, for a fellow with one eie that has rob'd two Clothiers, and am to craue your hindrance, for to search all suspected places; and they say there was a woman in the company. 136

Harp. Hast thou bin at the Alehouse? hast thou sought there?

Con. I durst not search, sir, in my Lord Cobhams libertie, except I had some of his seruants, which are for my warrant. 141

Harp. An honest Constable! an honest Constable! Cal forth him that keepes the Alehouse there.

Con. Hol! who's within there? 145

(Enter Ale-man)

Ale man Who calls there? come neere a Gods name! Oh, is't you, M(aister) Constable and M(aister) Harpoole? you are welcome with all my heart. What make you here so earely this morning? 150

Harp. Sirra, what strangers do you lodge? there is a robbery done this morning, and we are to search for all suspected persons.

Aleman. Gods bores! I am sory for't: yfaith, sir, I lodge no body but a good honest mery priest,—they call him sir Iohn a Wrootham—and a handsome woman that is his neece, that he saies he has some sute in law for; and as they go vp & down to London, sometimes they lie at my house. 160

Harp. What, is he here in thy house now?

Ale-m. She is, sir. I promise you, sir, he is a quiet man; and because he will not trouble too many roomes, he makes the woman lie euery night at his beds feete. 165

Harp. Bring her forth! Constable, bring her forth! let's see her, let's see her.

Ale-m. Dorothy, you must come downe to M(aister) Constable. 169

Dol. Anon, forsooth. [*she enters.*]

Harp. Welcome, sweete lasse, welcome.

Dol. I thank you, good M(aister) seruing-maan, and master Constable also.

Harp. A plump girle by the mas, a plump

128 God om. *Q2, etc.* 132 hue to crie *Q1* 134 for om. *Q2, etc.* 139 sir om. *Ff, etc.* 141 which are om. *Q2, etc.* 142 An honest Constable once in *Q2, etc.* *S. D. add. M* 146-7 come . . name om. *Q2, etc.* 156 mery om. *Ff, etc.* cal'd sir Iohn *Q2, etc.* 161 he] she *Q2, etc.* 162, 168 *Prefix Con.* *Qq*: corr. *Ff*

girl! Ha, Dol, ha! Wilt thou forsake the priest, and go with me? 176

Con. Al! well said, M(aister) Harpoole; you are a merrie old man, yfaith. Yfaith, you will neuer be old. Now, by the macke, a prettie wench indeed! 180

Harp. Ye old mad mery Constable, art thou aduis'de of that. Ha, well said, Doll! fill some ale here.

Dol. (aside). Oh, if I wist this old priest would not sticke to me, by Ioue, I would ingle this old seruing-man. 186

Harp. Oh you old mad colt! yfaith, Ile feak you! fill all the pots in the house there.

Con. Oh, wel said, M(aister) Harpoole! you are heart of oake when all's done. 190

Harp. Ha, Dol, thou hast a sweete paire of lippes, by the masse.

Doll Truly you are a most sweet olde man, as euer I sawe; by my troth, you haue a face, able to make any woman in loue with you. 195

Harp. Fill, sweete Doll; Ile drinke to thee.

Doll 'I' pledge you, sir, and thanke you therefore,

And I pray you let it come.'

Harp. (imbracing her). Doll, canst thou loue me? A mad merry lasse! would to God I had neuer seene thee! 201

Doll I warrant you, you will not out of my thoughts this tweluemonth; truly you are as full of fauour, as a man may be. Ah, these sweete grey lockes! by my troth, they are most louely. 206

Constable Gods boores, maister Harpoole, I will haue one busse too.

Harp. No licing for you, Constable! hand off, hand off! 210

Constable Bur lady, I loue kissing as wel as you.

Doll Oh, you are an od boie; you haue a wanton eie of your owne! ah, you sweet sugar lipt wanton, you will winne as many womens hearts as come in your company. 216

Enter Priest.

Wroth. Doll, come hither.

Harp. Priest, she shal not.

Doll Ile come anone, sweete loue.

Wroth. Hand off, old fornicator. 220

Harp. Vicar, Ile sit here in spight of thee. Is this fitte stuffe for a priest to carry vp and downe with him?

Wrotham Ah, sirra, dost thou not know,

176 with mee, Doll Q 2, etc. 178 yfaith om. Q 2, etc. 183 feak Q 1; ferke Q 2, etc. 197-8 Prose Qq. Ff; corr. M. Part of an old ballad conj. M. 207 Gods! Cuds Q 2, etc. 209-10 hands. M. 213 o 1) old M. 220 hands M. 224 Ah om. Q 2, etc.

that a good fellow parson may haue a chappel of ease, where his parish Church is farre off?

Harp. You whooreson ston'd Vicar!

Wroth. You olde stale ruffin! you lion of Cotswoold!

Harp. Swounds, Vicar, Ile geld you! 230
[flies upon him.]

Constable Keepe the Kings peace!

Doll Murder! murder! murder!

Ale man Holde! as you are men, holde! for Gods sake be quiet! Put vp your weapons; you drawe not in my house. 235

Harp. You whooreson bawdy priest!

Wroth. You old mutton monger!

Constable Hold, sir Iohn, hold!

Doll (to the Priest) I pray thee, sweet heart, be quiet. I was but sitting to drinke a pot of ale with him, euen as kinde a man as euer I met with. 242

Harp. Thou art a theefe, I warrant thee.

Wroth. Then I am but as thou hast beene in thy dayes. Lets not be ashamed of our trade; the King has beene a theefe himselfe.

Doll Come, be quiet. Hast thou sped?

Wroth. I haue, wench: here be crownes, ifaith.

Doll Come, lets be all friends then. 250

Constable Well said, mistris Dorothy, ifaith.

Harp. Thou art the madst priest that euer I met with.

Wroth. Giue me thy hand, thou art as good a fellow. I am a singer, a drinker, a bencher, a wench! I can say a masse, and kisse a lasse! Faith, I haue a parsonage, and bicause I would not be at too much charges, this wench serues me for a sexton. 260

Harp. Well said, mad priest, weele in and be friends. [exeunt.]

(SCENE II. London. A room in the Axe Inn, without Bishop-gate.)

Enter sir Roger Acton, master Bourne, master Beuerley, and William Murley the brewer of Dunstable.

Acton Now, maister Murley, I am well assurde

You know our arrant, and do like the cause, Being a man affected as we are.

Mu. Mary, God dild ye, daintie my deerel no master, good sir Roger Acton Knight, maister Bourne, and maister Beuerley esquires, gentlemen, and iustices of the peace—no maister I, but plaine William Murly, the brewer of Dunstable, your honest neighbour,

251 ifaith om. Q 2, etc. S. D. Scene II. etc. add. M
5 hands om. Q 2, etc. 6 csquires om. Q 2, etc.

and your friend, if ye be men of my profession. 11

Beuerley Professed friends to Wickliffe, foes to Rome.

Murl. Hold by me, lad; leane vpon that staffe, good maister Beuerley: all of a house. Say your mind, say your mind. 15

Acton You know our faction now is growne so great,

Throughout the realme, that it beginnes to smoake

Into the Cleargies eies, and the Kings eares. High time it is that we were drawne to head, Our generall and officers appoynted; 20

And warres, yewot, will aske great store of coine. Able to strength our action with your purse, You are elected for a colonell

Ouer a regiment of fiftene bands. 24

Murley Fue, paltrie, paltrie! in and out, to and fro! be it more or lesse, vpon occasion. Lorde haue mercie vpon vs, what a world is this! Sir Roger Acton, I am but a Dunstable man, a plaine brewer, ye know: will lusty Cauliering captaines, gentlemen, come at my calling, goe at my bidding? Daintie my deere, theile doe a dogge of waxe, a horse of cheese, a pricke and a pudding. No, no, ye must appoint some lord, or knight at least, to that place. 35

Bourne Why, master Murley, you shall be a Knight:

Were you not in election to be shrieue?

Haue ye not past all offices but that?

Haue ye not wealth to make your wife a lady?

I warrant you, my lord, our Generall 40
Bestowes that honor on you at first sight.

Murley Mary, God dild ye, daintie my deare!

But tell me, who shalbe our Generall?

Wheres the lord Cobham, sir John Old-castle, That noble almes-giuer, housekeeper, vertuous, Religious gentleman? Come to mether, boies, Come to me there! 47

Acton Why, who but he shall be our Generall?

Murley And shall he knight me, and make me colonell?

Acton My word for that: sir William Murley, knight. 50

Murley Fellow sir Roger Acton, knight, all fellows—I meane in armes—how strong are we? how many partners? Our enemies beside the King are mightie; be it more or lesse vpon occasion, reckon our force. 55

Acton There are of vs, our friends, and followers,

Three thousand and three hundred at the least;

Of northerne lads foure thousand, beside horse; From Kent there comes with sir Iohn Old-castle

Seauen thousand; then from London issue out, Of maisters, seruants, strangers, prentices, 61
Fortie odde thousands into Ficket field,

Where we appoynt our speciall randeuous.

Murley Fue, paltry, paltry, in and out, to and fro! Lord haue mercie vpon vs, what a world is this! Wheres that Ficket fiede, sir Roger? 67

Acton Behinde saint Giles in the field neere Holborne.

Murley Newgate, vp Holborne, S. Giles in the field, and to Tiborne: an old saw. For the day, for the day?

Acton On friday next, the foureteenth day of Ianuary. 74

Murley Tyllie vallie, trust me neuer if I haue any liking of that day! fue, paltry, paltry! friday, quoth a! Dismall day! Childermasse day this yeare was friday.

Beuerley Nay, maister Murley, if you obserue such daies,

We make some question of your constancie.

All daies are like to men resolu'de in right. 81

Murley Say Amen, and say no more; but say, and hold, master Beuerley: friday next, and Ficket field, and William Murley, and his merry men shalbe al one. I haue halfe a score iades that draw my beere cartes, 86

And euery iade shall beare a knaue,

And euery knaue shall weare a iacke,

And euery iacke shal haue a scull,

And euery scull shal shew a speare, 90

And euery speare shal kill a foe

At Ficket field, at Ficket field.

Iohn and Tom, and Dicke and Hodge,

And Rafe and Robin, William & George,

And all my knaues shall fight like men, 95

At Ficket field on friday next.

Bourne What summe of money meane you to disburse?

Murley It may be modestly, decently, soberly, and handsomely I may bring fue hundreth pound. 100

Acton Fieue hundreth, man! fue thousand's not enough!

A hundreth thousand will not pay our men

Two months together. Either come preparte

Like a braue Knight, and martiall Colonell,

In glittering golde, and gallant furniture, 105

Bringing in coyne a cart load at the least,

And all your followers mounted on good horse, Or neuer come disgracefull to vs all.

77 quoth-a, a dismal M 87-88 Prose all add.
93-4 Tom, Dicke and Hodge, Rafe Q 2, etc.

Beuerley Perchance you may be chosen Treasurer.

Tenne thousand pound's the least that you can bring. 110

Murley Paltry, paltry! in and out, to and fro, vpon occasion I haue ten thousand pound to spend, and tenne too. And rather than the Bishop shall haue his will of mee for my conscience, it shall out all. Flame and flaxe, flame and flaxe! it was gotte with water and mault, and it shal flie with fire and gunne powder. Sir Roger, a cart loade of mony til the axetree cracke, my selfe and my men in Ficket field on friday next: remember my Knighthoode, and my place. There's my hand; Ile bee there. 121

[Exit.

Acton See what Ambition may perswade men to,

In hope of honor he will spend himselfe.

Bourne I neuer thought a Brewer halfe so rich.

Beuerley Was neuer bankerout Brewer yet but one, 125

With vsing too much mault, too little water.

Acton Thats no fault in Brewers now-adayes. Come, away, about our businesse. [exeunt.

(SCENE III. *An audience-chamber in the palace at Eltham.*)

Enter K. Harry, Suffolke, Butler, and Old-castle kneeling to the King.

Harry Tis not enough, Lord Cobham, to submit;

You must forsake your grosse opinion.

The Bishops find themselues much iniured,

And though, for some good seruice you haue done,

We for our part are please to pardon you, 5
Yet they will not so soone be satisfied.

Cobham My gracious Lord, vnto your Maiestie,

Next vnto my God, I owe my life;

And what is mine, either by natures gift,

Or fortunes bountie, al is at your seruice. 10

But, for obedience to the Pope of Rome,

I owe him none, nor shall his shaueling priests That are in England alter my beliefe.

If out of holy Scripture they can proue,

That I am in an errour I will yeeld, 15

And gladly take instruction at their hands;

But otherwise, I do beseech your grace,

My conscience may not be inroacht vpon.

115 out on. Q 2, etc. shall all go F 2, etc. Flame and flaxe, flaxe and flame Q 2, etc. 118 axletree Q 2, etc. 128 Come, let's away M S. D. Scene III. etc. add. M 8 do owe M

Har. We would be loath to presse our subjects bodies,

Much lesse their soules, the deere redeemed part 20

Of him that is the ruler of vs all;

Yet let me counsell ye, that might command:

Do not presume to tempt them with ill words,

Nor suffer any meetings to be had

Within your house, but to the vttermost, 25

Disperse the flockes of this new gathering sect.

Cobham My liege, if any breathe, that dares come forth,

And say my life in any of these points

Deserues th'attaindour of ignoble thoughts,

Here stand I, crauing no remorse at all, 30

But euen the vtmost rigor may be showne.

Har. Let it suffice; we know your loyaltie. What haue you there?

Cob. A deed of clemencie;

Your Highnesse pardon for Lord Powesse life,

Which I did beg, and you, my noble Lord, 36

Of gracious fauour did vouchsafe to grant.

Har. But yet it is not signed with our hand.

Cob. Not yet, my Liege.

[one ready with pen and incke.

Har. The fact, you say, was done, 40
Not of prepensed malice, but by chance.

Cob. Vpon mine honor so, no otherwise.

Har. There is his pardon; bid him make amends, [writes.

And cleanse his soule to God for his offence.

What we remit, is but the bodies scourge—

Enter Bishop.

How now, Lord Bishop? 46

Bishop Iustice, dread Soueraigne!

As thou art King, so graunt I may haue iustice.

Har. What meanes this exclamation? let vs know.

Bish. Ah, my good Lord, the state's abusde, And our decrees most shamefully prophande.

Har. How? or by whom? 52

Bish. Euen by this heretike,

This Iew, this Traitor to your maiestie.

Cob. Prelate, thou liest, euen in thy greasie maw,

Or whosoever twits me with the name

Of either traitor, or of heretike.

Har. Forbeare, I say; and, Bishop, shew the cause

From whence this late abuse hath bin deriu'de.

Bish. Thus, mightie King:—By generall consent, 60

A messenger was sent to cite this Lord,

To make appearance in the consistorie;

22 ye] you Q 2, etc. 41 pretended Q 2, Ff, M: propensed R, Pope 50 is much abus'd M

And comming to his house, a ruffian slaue,
One of his daily followers, met the man,
Who, knowing him to be a parator, 65
Assaults him first and after, in contempt
Of vs and our proceedings, makes him cate
The written processe, parchment, seale and all:
Whereby his maister neither was brought
forth,

Nor we but scordn for our authoritie. 70

Har. When was this done?

Bish. At sixe a clocke this morning.

Har. And when came you to court?

Cob. Last night, my Lord. 74

Har. By this it seemes, he is not guilty of it,
And you haue done him wrong t'accuse him so.

Bish. But it was done, my lord, by his
appointment,

Or else his man durst ne're haue bin so bold.

Har. Or else you durst be bold to inter-
rupt,

And fill our eares with friuolous complaints. 80
Is this the duetie you do beare to vs?

Was't not sufficient we did passe our word
To send for him, but you, misdoubting it,
Or—which is worse—intending to forestall

Our regall power, must likewise summon him?

This sauours of Ambition, not of zeale, 86

And rather proues you malice his estate,

Than any way that he offends the law.

Go to, we like it not; and he your officer,

That was imployde so much amisse herein, 90

Had his desert for being insolent.

Enter Huntington.

So, Cobham, when you please you may depart.

Cob. I humbly bid farewell vnto my liege.

[*Exit.*]

Har. Farewell.—What's the newes by Hunt-
ington?

Hunt. Sir Roger Acton and a crue, my Lord,

Of hold seditious rebels are in Armes, 96

Intending reformation of Religion.

And with their Army they intend to pitch

In Ficket field, vnlesse they be repulst.

Har. So nere our presence? Dare they be so
bold? 100

And will proude warre, and eager thirst of
bloud,

Whom we had thought to entertaine farre off,

Presse forth vpon vs in our natiue boundes?

Must wee be forc't to hansell our sharp blades

In England here, which we prepar'd for France?

Well, a Gods name be it! What's their num-
ber, say,

Or who's the chiefe commander of this rowt?

Hunt. Their number is not knowne, as yet,
my Lord,

But tis reported Sir Iohn Old-castle
Is the chiefe man on whom they do depend. 110

Har. How, the Lord Cobham?

Hunt. Yes, my gracious Lord.

Bish. I could haue told your maiestie as
much

Before he went, but that I saw your Grace
Was too much blinded by his flaterie. 115

Suf. Send poast, my Lord, to fetch him
backe againe.

But. Traitor vnto his country, how he
smooth'de,

And seemde as innocent as Truth it selfe!

Har. I cannot thinke it yet he would be
false;

But if he be, no matter; let him go. 120

Weele meet both him and them vnto their wo.

Exeunt (all but Bishop).

Bish. This falls out well, and at the last I
hope

To see this heretike die in a rope.

(ACT III.)

SCENE I. *An avenue leading to lord Cobham's
house in Kent.*

*Enter Earle of Cambridge, Lord Scroope, Gray,
and Chartres the French factor.*

Scroop. Once more, my Lord of Cambridge,
make rehearsal,

How you do stand intituled to the Crowne.

The deeper shall we print it in our mindes,

And euery man the better be resolu'de,

When he perceiues his quarrell to be iust. 5

Cam. Then thus, Lord Scroope, sir Thomas
Gray, & you,

Mounsieur de Chartres, agent for the French:—

This Lionell, Duke of Clarence, as I said,

Third sonne of Edward (Englands King) the
third, 9

Had issue Phillip, his sole daughter and heyre;

Which Phillip afterward was giuen in marriage

To Edmund Mortimer, the Earle of March,

And by him had a son cald Roger Mortimer;

Which Roger, likewise, had of his discent

Edmund, Roger, Anne, and Elianor— 15

Two daughters and two sonnes—but those
three

Dide without issue. Anne, that did suruiue,

And now was left her fathers onely heyre,

My fortune was to marry, being too

By my grandfather of King Edwardes line: 20

78 ne're] not Q 2, etc. 79 durst not be M Lines
90 and 91 transposed Q 2, etc.

121 S. D. Exeunt follows next line in Q 1: at end of
scene Q 2, etc. Act III, etc. add. M 16 but of
those, three Ff, etc. 19 My] By Q 2, Ff

So of his sirname, I am calde, you know,
Richard Plantagenet. My father was
Edward, the Duke of Yorke, and son and heyre
To Edmund Langley, Edward the third's fifth
sonne.

Scroop So that it seemes your claime comes
by your wife, 25

As lawfull heyre to Roger Mortimer,
The son of Edmund, which did marry Phillip,
Daughter and heyre to Lyonell, Duke of
Clarence.

Cam. True, for this Harry and his father
both,

Harry the first, as plainly doth appeare, 30
Are false intruders and vsurp the Crowne.

For when yong Richard was at Pomfret slaine,
In him the title of prince Edward dide,
That was the eldest of king Edwards sonnes:

William, of Hatfield, and their second brother,
Death in his nonage had before bereft: 36

So that my wife, deriu'd from Lionell,
Third sonne vnto king Edward, ought proceede,

And take possession of the Diademe
Before this Harry, or his father king, 40

Who fetcht their title but from Lancaster,
Forth of that royall line. And being thus,

What reason ist but she should haue her right?
Scroope I am resolu'de our enterprise is
iust.

Gray Harry shall die, or else resigne his
crowne. 45

Chart. Performe but that, and Charles, the
king of France,

Shall ayde you, lordes, not onely with his men,
But send you money to maintaine your warres.

Fiue hundred thousand crownes he bade me
proffer, 49

If you can stop but Harries voyage for France.
Scrope We neuer had a fitter time than now,

The realme in such diuision as it is.
Camb. Besides, you must perswade ye,

there is due
Vengeance for Richards murder, which,

although
It be deferrde, yet will it fall at last, 55

And now as likely as another time.
Sinne hath had many yeeres to ripen in,

And now the haruest cannot be farre off,
Wherein the weedes of vsurpation

Are to be cropt, and cast into the fire. 60
Scroope No more, earle Cambridge; here I

plight my faith,
To set vp thee and thy renowned wife.

Gray. Gray will performe the same, as he is
knight.

Chart. And to assist ye, as I said before,
Charters doth gage the honor of his king. 65

Scroope We lacke but now Lord Cobhams
fellowship,

And then our plot were absolute indeede.
Camb. Doubt not of him, my lord; his life's

pursu'de
By th'incensed Cleargy, and of late,

Brought in displeasure with the king, assures
He may be quickly wonne vnto our faction. 71

Who hath the articles were drawne at large
Of our whole purpose?

Gray That haue I, my Lord.
Camb. We should not now be farre off from

his house; 75
Our serious conference hath beguild the way:

See where his castle stands. Giue me the
writing.

When we are come vnto the speech of him,
Because we will not stand to make recount,

Of that which hath beene saide, here he shall
reade [enter Cob.

Our mindes at large, and what we craue of
him.

Scroope A ready way. Here comes the man
himselfe,

Booted and spurrd; it seemes he hath beene
riding.

Camb. Well met, lord Cobham.
Cobh. My lord of Cambridge? 85

Your honor is most welcome into Kent,
And all the rest of this faire company.

I am new come from London, gentle Lordes:
But will ye not take Cowling for your host,

And see what entertainement it affordes? 90
Camb. We were intended to haue beene

your guests:
But now this lucky meeting shall suffice

To end our businesse, and deferre that kind-
nesse.

Cobh. Businesse, my lord? what businesse
should you haue

But to be mery? We haue no delicates, 95
But this Ile promise you: a peece of venison,

A cup of wine, and so forth—hunters fare;
And if you please, wee le strike the stagge our

selues
Shall fill our dishes with his wel-fed flesh.

Scroope That is, indeede, the thing we all
desire. 100

Cobh. My lordes and you shall haue your
choice with me.

Camb. Nay, but the stagge which we desire
to strike

Liues not in Cowling: if you will consent,
And goe with vs, wee le bring you to a forrest,

24 fifth] first *Q₁*. *Ff*: corr. *Perry* in *M* 30 Harry
the fourth *M* 53 ye] you *Q₂*, etc.

68 life *M* 94-5 should Let you to be *Q₂*, etc.

Where runnes a lusty hierd; amongst the
which 105

There is a stagge superior to the rest,
A stately beast that, when his fellows runne,
He leades the race, and beates the sullen earth,
As though he scornd it, with his trampling
hoofes.

Aloft he beares his head, and with his breast,
Like a huge bulwarke, counter-checkes the
wind: 111

And when he standeth still, he stretcheth forth
His proud ambitious necke, as if he meant
To wound the firmament with forked hornes.

Cobh. Tis pitty such a goodly beast should
die. 115

Camb. Not so, sir Iohn, for he is tyrannous,
And gores the other deere, and will not keep
Within the limites are appointed him.

Of late hees broke into a seuerall, 119

Which doth belong to me, and there he spoiles
Both corne and pasture. Two of his wilde race,
Alike for stealth and couetous ineroatching,

Already are remou'd; if he were dead,
I should not onely be secure from hurt,
But with his body make a royall feast. 125

Scroope How say you, then; will you first
hunt with vs?

Cobh. Faith, Lords, I like the pastime;
where's the place?

Camb. Peruse this writing; it will shew you
all,
And what occasion we haue for the sport.

Cobh. Call ye this hunting, my lords? Is
this the stag 130

You faine would chase—Harry our dread king?
So we may make a banquet for the diuell,
And in the steede of wholesome meate, prepare
A dish of poison to confound our selues.

Camb. Why so, lord Cobham? See you not
our claime? 135

And how imperiously he holdes the crowne?
Scroope Besides, you know your selfe is in
disgrace,

Held as a recreant, and pursude to death.
This will defend you from your enemies, 139
And establish your religion through the land.

Cobh. Notorious treason! yet I will conceale
[aside

My secret thoughts, to sound the depth of it.
My lord of Cambridge, I doe see your claime,
And what good may redound vnto the land
By prosecuting of this enterprise. 145

But where are men? where's power and furni-
ture

To order such an action? We are weake;
105 among Q 2, etc. 131 our most dread M

Harry, you know's a mighty potentate.

Camb. Tut, we are strong enough: you are
belou'de,

And many will be glad to follow you; 150
We are the like, and some will follow vs.

Besides, there is hope from France: heres an
embassador

That promiseth both men and money too.

The commons likewise (as we heare) pretend
A sodaine tumult; we wil ioyne with them. 155

Cobh. Some likelihoode, I must confesse, to
speede:

But how shall I beleue this is plaine truth?

You are, my lords, such men as liue in Court,
And highly haue beene fauour'd of the king,
Especially lord Scroope, whome oftentimes 160
He maketh choice of for his bedfellow;
And you, lord Gray, are of his priuy counsell:
Is not this a traine to intrap me my life?

Camb. Then perish may my soule! What,
thinke you so?

Scroope Weele sweare to you. 165

Gray Or take the sacrament.

Cobh. Nay, you are noble men, and I
imagine,

As you are honorable by birth and bloud,
So you will be in heart, in thought, in word.
I craue no other testimony but this: 170

That you would all subscribe, and set your
hands

Vnto this writing which you gaue to me.

Camb. With all our hearts. Who hath any
pen and inke?

Scroope My pocket should haue one: yea,
heere it is.

Camb. Giue it me, lord Scroope.—There is
my name. 175

Scroope And there is my name.

Gray And mine.

Cobh. Sir, let me craue,

That you would likewise write your name with
theirs,

For confirmation of your maisters word, 180
The king of Fraunce.

Char. That will I, noble Lord.

Cobh. So now this action is well knit to-
gether,

And I am for you. Where's our meeting,
lords?

Camb. Here, if you please, the tenth of Iuly
next. 185

Cobh. In Kent? agreed: now let vs in to
supper.

I hope your honors will not away to night.

151 like F 1: light Qq 157 is] in Q 2, etc. 163
traîne laide to Q 2, etc. 174 yea] O Q 2, etc.
178-81 Prose Q 2, Fj

Camb. Yes, presently; for I haue farre to ride,
About solliciting of other friends.

Scoope And we would not be absent from the court, 190

Let thereby grow suspition in the king.

Cobh. Yet taste a cup of wine before ye go.

Camb. Not now, my lord, we thanke you: so farewell. (*Exeunt all but Cobham.*)

Cob. Farewell, my noble lordes.—My noble lords?

My noble villaines, base conspirators. 195

How can they looke his Highnesse in the face,

Whome they so closely study to betray?

But ile not sleepe vntill I make it knowne.

This head shall not be burdned with such thoughts,

Nor in this heart will I conceale a deede 200

Of such impietie against my king.

Madam, how now?

Enter Harpoole and the rest.

Lady Cobh. You are welcome home, my Lord.

Why seeme ye so disquiet in your lookes?

What hath befallne you that disquiets your minde? 205

Lady Po. Bad newes, I am afraide, touching my husband.

Cobh. Madam, not so: there is your husbands pardon.

Long may ye liue, each ioy vnto the other.

Powesse So great a kindnesse as I knowe not howe

To make reply; my sense is quite confounded.

Cobh. Let that alone: and madam, stay me not, 211

For I must backe vnto the court againe

With all the speede I can. Harpoole, my horse.

Lady Cob. So soone, my Lord? what, will you ride all night?

Cobham All night or day; it must be so, sweete wife. 215

Urge me not why or what my businesse is,

But get you in. Lord Powesse, beare with me, And madam, thinke your welcome nere the worse:

My house is at your vse. Harpoole, away.

Harp. Shall I attend your lordship to the court? 220

Cobh. Yea, sir; your gelding! mount you presently. *exe(unf).*

Lady Cobh. I prythee, Harpoole, looke vnto thy Lord.

I do not like this sodaine posting backe.

Powes Some earnest businesse is a foote belike;

Whate're it be, pray God be his good guide. 225

Lady Po. Amen! that hath so highly vs bested.

Lady Co. Come, madam, and my lord, weele hope the best;

You shall not into Wales till he returne.

Powesse Though great occasion be we should departe,

Yet madam will we stay to be resolute 230

Of this vnlookt for, doubtful accident. [*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE II. *A road near Highgate.*)

Enter Murley and his men, prepared in some filthy order for warre.

Murly. Come, my hearts of flint, modestly, decently, soberly, and handsomly, no man afore his Leader; follow your master, your Capitaine, your Knight that shal be, for the honor of Meale-men, Millers, and Mault-men. Dunne is the mowse. Dicke and Tom, for the credite of Dunstable, ding downe the enemie to morrow; ye shall not come into the field like beggars. Where be Leonard and Laurence, my two loaders? Lord haue mercie vpon vs, what a world is this? I would giue a couple of shillings for a dozen of good fethers for ye, and forty pence for as many skarffes to set ye out withall. Frost and snow! a man has no heart to fight till he be braue. 15

Dicke Master, I hope we be no babes. For our manhood, our bucklers and our towne foote-balls can beare witnesse: and this lite parrell we haue shall off, and weel fight naked afore we runne away. 20

Tom. Nay, I am of Laurence mind for that, for he meanes to laue his life behind him; he and Leonard, your two loaders, are making their wills because they haue wiues. Now we Bachellers bid our friends scramble for our goods if we die: but, master, pray ye, let me ride vpon Cutte. 27

Murly Meale and salt, wheat and mault, fire and tow, frost and snow! why, Tom, thou shalt. Let me see: here are you, William and George are with my cart, and Robin and Hodge holding my owne two horses; proper men, handsom men, tall men, true men. 33

Dicke But, master, master, me thinkes you are a mad man to hazard your owne person and a cart load of money too.

229-31 *Prose Qq. Ff:* corr. *R* Scene II. *etc. add. M*
16 I hope *om. Q 2, etc.* be] are *Q 2, etc.* 16-17 For
... bucklers and *om. Q 2, etc.* 18 lite] little *Q 2, etc.*
20 before *Q 2, etc.* 24 Now] and *M* 35 a mad
man] mad *Ff, etc.*

193 *S. D. add. R:* Exit *Q 2, Ff* 204 ye] you *M*
unquiet *Ff, etc.* 205 disturbs your minde *Q 2, etc.*
209-10 *Prose in Qq. Ff:* corr. *M* 210 make *om. Ff*

Tom. Yea, and, maister, theres a worse matter in't. If it be as I heard say, we go to fight against all the learned Bishops, that should giue vs their blessing; and if they curse vs, we shall speede nere the better. 41

Dicke Nay, bir lady, some say the King takes their part; and, master, dare you fight against the King?

Murly Fie, paltry, paltry! in and out, to and fro, vpon occasion; if the King be so vnwise to come there, wee le fight with him too.

Tom. What, if ye should kill the King?

Mur. Then wee le make another. 49

Dicke Is that all? do ye not speake treason? *Mur.* If we do, who dare trippe vs? we come to fight for our conscience, and for honor. Little know you what is in my bosome; looke here, madde knaues, a paire of guilt spurs.

Tom. A paire of golden spurs? Why do you not put them on your heeles? Your bosome's no place for spurs. 57

Mur. Bee't more or lesse vpon occasion, Lord haue mercy (vpon) vs, Tom, th'art a foole, and thou speakest treason to knight-hood. Dare any weare golden or siluer spurs til he be a knight? No, I shall be knighted to morrow, and then they shall on. Sirs, was it euer read in the church booke of Dunstable, that euer mault man was made knight? 65

Tom. No, but you are more: you are meal-man, maultman, miller, corne-master and all.

Dicke Yea, and halfe a brewer too, and the diuell and all for wealth. You bring more money with you, than all the rest. 70

Mur. The more's my honor. I shal be a knight to morow! Let me spouse my men: Tom vpon cutte, Dicke vpon hobbe, Hodge vpon Ball, Raph vpon Sorell, and Robin vpon the forehorse. 75

Enter Acton, Bourne, and Beuerley.

Tom. Stand, who comes there?

Act. Al friends, good fellow.

Murly. Friends and fellows, indeede, sir Roger.

Act. Why, thus you shew your selfe a Gentleman, 80
To keepe your day, and come so well preparte. Your cart stands yonder, guarded by your men, Who tell me it is loaden well with coine. What summe is there? 84

Mur. Ten thousand pound, sir Roger; and modestly, decently, soberly, and handsomely, see what I haue here against I be knighted.

Act. Gilt spurs? tis well.

48 ye| you M 50 ye| you M 59 mercy vs Q 1:
corr. Q 2 61 gold Q 2, etc.

Mur. But where's our armie, sir?

Act. Disperst in sundry villages about: 90
Some here with vs in Hygate, some at Finchley, Totnam, Enfield, Edmunton, Newington, Islington, Hogsdon, Pancredge, Kenzington; Some neerer Thames, Ratcliffe, Blackwall and

Bow;

But our chiefe strength must be the Londoners, Which, ere the Sunne to morrow shine, 96
Will be nere fittie thousand in the field.

Mur. Mary, God dild ye, daintie my deerel but vpon occasion, sir Roger Acton, doth not the King know of it, and gather his power against vs? 101

Act. No, hee's secure at Eltham.

Mur. What do the Cleargie?

Act. Feare extremly, yet prepare no force.

Mur. In and out, to and fro, Bullie my boikin, we shall carry the world afore vs! I vow by my worshippe, when I am knighted, wee le take the King napping, if he stand on their part. 109

Act. This night we few in Higate will repose. With the first cocke wee le rise and arme our selues,

To be in Ficket felde by breake of day,
And there expect our Generall.

Mur. Sir Iohn Old-castle? what if he come not? 115

Bourne Yet our action stands.

Sir Roger Acton may supply his place.

Mur. True, M(aister) Bourne, but who shall make me knight?

Beuer. He that hath power to be our Generall. 120

Act. Talke not of trifles; come, let's away. Our friends of London long till it be day. [*exeunt.*]

(SCENE III. A high road in Kent.)

Enter sir Iohn of Wrootham and Doll.

Doll. By my troth, thou art as ielous a man as liues.

Priest Canst thou blame me, Doll? thou art my lands, my goods, my iewels, my wealth, my purse. None walks within xl. miles of London, but a plies thee as truely as the parish does the poore mans boxe. 7

Doll. I am as true to thee as the stone is in the wal; and thou knowest well enough, sir Iohn, I was in as good doing, when I came to thee, as any wench neede to be; and therefore

89 But om. Q 2, etc. 104 They fear M 114 Sir Iohn Oldcastle add. to Acton's speech, M Scene III. etc. add. M S. D. Enter Priest and Q 2, Ff 9-10 sir Iohn om. Q 2, etc.

thou hast tried me, that thou hast: by Gods body, I will not be kept as I haue bin, that I wyl not.

Priest Doll, if this blade holde, theres not a pedler walkes with a pack, but thou shalt as boldly chuse of his wares, as with thy ready money in a Marchants shop. Weele haue as good siluer as the King coynes any.

Doll What, is al the gold spent you tooke the last day from the Courtier?

Priest Tis gone, Doll, tis flown; merely come, merely gon: he comes a horse backe that must pay for all. Weele haue as good meate as money can get, and as good gownes as can be bought for gold. Be mery, wench, the mault-man comes on munday.

Doll You might haue left me at Cobham, vntil you had bin better provided for.

Priest No, sweet Doll, no; I do not like that. Yond old ruffian is not for the priest: I do not like a new cleark should come in the old bell-frie.

Doll Ah, thou art a mad priest, yfaith.

Priest Come, Doll; Ile see thee safe at some alehouse here at Cray, and the next sheepe that comes shall leaue his fleece.

[*exeunt.*]

(SCENE IV. *Blackheath.*)

Enter the King, Suffolke and Butler.

King (in great hast). My lord of Suffolk, poste away for life, And let our forces of such horse and foote, As can be gathered vp by any meanes, Make speedy randeuow in Tuttle fields. It must be done this euening, my Lord; This night the rebells meane to draw to head Neere Islington, which if your speede preuent not,

If once they should vnite their seuerall forces, Their power is almost thought inuincible.

Away, my Lord; I will be with you soone.
Suf. I go, my Soueraigne, with all happie speede.

[*exit.*]

King Make haste, my lord of Suffolke, as you loue vs.

Butler, poste you to London with all speede; Commaund the Maior and shrieues, on their allegiance,

The cittie gates be presently shut vp And guarded with a strong sufficient watch, And not a man be sufferd to passe Without a speciall warrant from our selfe. Command the Posterne by the Tower be kept,

And proclamation, on the paine of death, That not a citizen stirre from his doores, Except such as the Maior and Shrieues shall chuse

For their owne garde and safety of their persons.

Butler, away; haue care vnto my charge.

But. I goe, my Soueraigne.

King Butler!

But. My Lord.

King Goe downe by Greenewich, and commaund a boate

At the Friers bridge attend my comming downe.

But. I will, my Lord.

[*exit.*]

King It's time, I thinke, to looke vnto rebellion,

When Acton doth expect vnto his ayd No lesse then fiftie thousand Londoners.

Well, Ile to Westminster in this disguise, To heare what newes is stirring in these brawles.

Enter sir Iohn (and Doll).

Sir Iohn Stand, true-man! saies a thiefe.

King Stand, thiefe! saies a true man. How if a thiefe?

Sir Iohn Stand, thiefe, too.

King Then, thiefe or true-man, I see I must stand. I see, how soeuer the world waggas, the trade of theeuing yet will neuer downe. What art thou?

Sir Iohn A good fellow.

King So am I too. I see thou dost know me.

Sir Iohn. If thou be a good fellow, play the good fellows part: deliuer thy purse without more adoe.

King I haue no mony.

Sir Iohn I must make you find some before we part. If you haue no mony, you shal haue ware: as many sound drie blows as your skin can carrie.

King Is that the plaine truth?

Sir Iohn Sirra, no more adoe; come, come, giue me the mony you haue. Dispatch, I cannot stand all day.

King. Wel, if thou wilt needs haue it, there tis: iust the prouerb, one thiefe robs another. Where the duel are all my old theeuers, that were wont to keepe this walke? Falstaffe, the villaine, is so fat, he cannot get on's horse, but me thinks Paines and Peto should be stirring here abouts.

S. D. Enter Priest *Q 2, Ff* and Doll *add. M*
40 true-man, I must *Q 2, etc.* 53 drie om.
Q 2, etc. 61-2 that . . walke om. *Q 2, etc.* 62 the]
that *Q 2, etc.*

12-13 by Gods body] and *Q 2, etc.* 30 I like not
that *Q 2, etc.* 34 Ah om. *Q 2, etc.* 37 leaue be-
hind his *Q 2, etc.* Scene IV. *etc. add. M*

sir Iohn How much is there on't, of thy word?

King A hundred pound in Angels, on my word.

The time has beene I would haue done as much For thee, if thou hadst past this way, as I haue now.

sir Iohn Sirra, what art thou? thou seem'st a gentleman.

King I am no lesse; yet a poore one now, for thou hast all my mony.

sir Iohn From whence cam'st thou?

King From the court at Eltham.

sir Iohn Art thou one of the Kings seruants?

King Yes, that I am, and one of his chamber.

sir Iohn I am glad thou art no worse; thou maist the better spare thy mony: & thinkst thou thou mightst get a poor thiefe his pardon, if he should haue neede.

King Yes, that I can.

sir Iohn Wilt thou do so much for me, when I shall haue occasion?

King Yes, faith will I, so it be for no murther.

sir Iohn Nay, I am a pittifull thiefe; all the hurt I do a man, I take but his purse; Ile kill no man.

King Then, of my word, Ile do it.

sir Iohn Giue me thy hand of the same.

King There tis.

sir Iohn Me thinks the King should be good to theeues, because he has bin a thiefe himselfe, though I thinke now he be turned true-man.

King Faith, I haue heard indeede he has had an il name that way in his youth; but how canst thou tell he has beene a thiefe?

sir Iohn How? Because he once robde me before I fell to the trade my selfe; when that foule villainous guts, that led him to all that rogerie, was in's company there, that Falstaffe.

King (aside). Well, if he did rob thee then, thou art but euen with him now, Ile be sworne.—Thou knowest not the king now, I thinke, if thou sawest him?

sir Iohn Not I, yfaith.

King (aside). So it should seeme.

sir Iohn Well, if old King Henry had liu'de, this King that is now had made theeuing the best trade in England.

King Why so?

sir Iohn Because he was the chiefe warden of our company. It's pittie that ere he should

haue bin a King; he was so braue a thiefe. But, sirra, wilt remember my pardon if neede be?

King Yes, faith, will I.

sir Iohn Wilt thou? well then, because thou shalt go safe—for thou mayest hap (being so earely) be met with againe before thou come to Southwarke—if any man, when he should bid thee good morrow, bid thee stand, say thou but *sir Iohn*, and he will let thee passe.

King Is that the word? well, then, let me alone.

sir Iohn Nay, sirra, because I thinke indeede I shall haue some occasion to vse thee, & as thou comst oft this way, I may light on thee another time not knowing thee, here! ile breake this Angell. Take thou halfe of it; this is a token betwixt thee and me.

King. God haue mercy; farewell.

sir Iohn O my fine golden slaues! heres for thee, wench, yfaith. Now, Dol, we wil reuel in our bouer! this is a tyth pigge of my vicaridge. God haue mercy, neighbour Shooters hill; you paid your tyth honestly. Wel, I heare there is a company of rebelles vp against the King, got together in Ficket field neere Holborne, and as it is thought here in Kent, the King will be there to night in's owne person; well, ile to the Kings camp, and it shall go hard, but, if there be any doings, Ile make some good boote amongst them.

(ACT IV.

SCENE I. A field near London. *King Henry's camp*.)

Enter King Henry, Suffolke, Huntington, and two with lights.

K. Hen. My Lords of Suffolke and of Huntington, Who skouts it now? or who stands Sentinells? What men of worth? what Lords do walke the round?

Suff. May it please your Highnesse—

K. Hen. Peace, no more of that. The King's asleepe; wake not his maiestie With termes nor titles; hee's at rest in bed. Kings do not vse to watch themselues; they sleepe,

And let rebellion and conspiracie Reuel and hauocke in the common wealth.— Is London lookt vnto?

128 well om. *Ff.* etc.

136 God a mercy *Q 2*, etc.

139 bower conj. *M*: beuer *Qy* 140 God a mercy *Q 2*, etc. 141 paid] ha paid *Q 2*, etc. 148 boote] booty conj. *M* Act IV. etc. add. *M*

70 Two lines *M*, dir. after I 92 of] on *M* 93 of] on *M* 97 although *Ff.* etc. 101 tell that he *Q 2*, etc. 112 olde King Harry *Q 2*, etc.

Hunt. It is, my Lord:
Your noble Vncle Exceter is there,
Your brother Gloucester and my Lord of War-
wicke,
Who, with the maior and the Aldermen, 15
Do guard the gates, and keepe good rule
within;
The Earle of Cambridge and sir Thomas Gray
Do walke the Round; Lord Scroope and
Butler skout.
So, though it please your maiestie to iest,
Were you in bed, well might you take your
rest. 20

K. Hen. I thank ye, Lords, but you do know
of old,
That I haue bin a perfect night-walker.
London, you say, is safely lookt vnto—
Alas, poore rebels, there your ayd must faile—
And the Lord Cobham, sir Iohn Old-castle, 25
Hee's quiet in Kent. Acton, ye are deceiud;
Reckon againe, you count without your host;
To morrow you shall giue account to vs.
Til when, my friends, this long cold winters
night

How can we spend? King Harry is a sleepe
And al his Lords, these garments tel vs so; 31
Al friends at footebal, fellowes all in field,
Harry, and Dicke, and George. Bring vs a
drumme;
Giue vs square dice, wee keepe this court of
guard
For al good fellowes companies that come. 35
Wheres that mad priest ye told me was in
Armes,

To fight, as well as pray, if neede required?
Suff. Hees in the Camp, and if he know of
this,

I vndertake he would not be long hence.
Har. Trippe, Dicke; Trippe, George. 40
[they trippe.]

Hunt. I must haue the dice.
What do we play at? [the(y) play at dice.]

Suff. Passage, if ye please.
Hunt. Set round then: so; at all.

Har. George, you are out. 45
Giue me the dice. I passe for twentie pound.
Heres to our luckie passage into France.

Hunt. Harry, you passe indeede, for you
sweepe all.

Suff. A signe king Harry shal sweep al in
France.

ent(er) *sir Iohn.*

sir Iohn Edge ye, good fellowes; take a
fresh gamster in. 51

26 Hee's om. Q 2, etc. 49 S. D. Enter Priest
Q 2, Fy

Har. Master Parson? We play nothing but
gold.

sir Iohn. And, fellow, I tel thee that the
priest hath gold. Gold? sblood, ye are but
beggerly souldiers to me. I thinke I haue more
gold than all you three. 57

Hunt. It may be so, but we beleue it
not.

Har. Set, priest, set. I passe for all that
gold.

sir Iohn Ye passe, indeede.

Harry Priest, hast thou any more? 61

sir Iohn Zounds, what a question's that?

I tell thee I haue more then all you three.

At these ten Angells!

Harry. I wonder how thou comst by all
this gold; 65

How many benefices hast thou, priest?

sir Iohn Yfaith, but one. Dost wonder how
I come by gold? I wonder rather how poore
souldiers should haue gold; for Ile tell thee,
good fellow: we haue euery day tythes, offer-
ings, christnings, weddings, burials; and you
poore snakes come seldome to a bootie. Ile
speake a prowd word: I haue but one par-
sonage, Wrootham; tis better than the Bishopp-
rick of Rochester. Theres nere a hill, heath,
nor downe in all Kent, but tis in my parish:
Barrham downe, Chobham downe, Gads hill,
Wrootham hill, Blacke heath, Cockes heath,
Birchen wood, all pay me tythe. Gold, quoth
a? ye passe not for that. 80

Suff. Harry, ye are out; now, parson, shake
the dice.

sir Iohn. Set, set; Ile couer ye at al. A
plague on't, I am out: the diuell, and dice, and
a wench, who will trust them? 85

Suff. Saist thou so, priest? Set faire; at all
for once.

Har. Out, sir; pay all.

sir Iohn Sblood, pay me angel gold.

Ile none of your crackt French crownes nor
pistolets. 90

Pay me faire angel gold, as I pay you.

Har. No crackt french crownes? I hope to
see more crackt french crownes ere long.

sir Iohn Thou meaneest of French mens
crownes, when the King is in France. 95

Hunt. Set round, at all.

sir Iohn Pay all: this is some lucke.

Har. Giue me the dice, tis I must shread the
priest:

At all, sir Iohn.

55 sblood] what Q 2, etc. 61 thou om. Q 2, etc.
62 Zounds] more Q 2, etc. 67 Faith Q 2, etc. 81
ye] you M 89 Sblood] Sir Q 2, etc. 98 shread]
shriue conj. M

sir Iohn The diuell and all is yours. At
that! Sdeath, what casting is this? 101

Suff. Well throwne, Harry, yfaith.

Har. Ile cast better yet.

sir Iohn Then Ile be hangd. Sirra, hast
thou not giuen thy soule to the diuell for
casting? 106

Har. I passe for all.

sir Iohn Thou passest all that ere I playde
withall.

Sirra, dost thou not cogge, nor foist, nor slurre?

Har. Set, parson, set; the dice die in my
hand: 110

When parson, when? what, can ye finde no
more?

Alreadie drie? wast you bragd of your store?

sir Iohn Alls gone but that.

Hunt. What? halfe a broken angell?

sir Iohn Why sir, tis gold. 115

Har. Yea, and Ile couer it.

sir Iohn. The diuell do ye good on't, I am
blinde, yee haue blowne me vp.

Har. Nay, tarry, priest; ye shall not leaue
vs yet.

Do not these peeces fit each other well? 120

sir Iohn What if they do?

Har. Thereby beginnes a tale:

There was a thiefe, in face much like sir Iohn—
But t'was not hee, that thiefe was all in
greene—

Met me last day at Blacke Heath, neere the
parke, 125

With him a woman. I was al alone
And weaponlesse, my boy had al my tooles,
And was before prouiding me a boate.

Short tale to make, sir Iohn—the thiefe, I
meane—

Tooke a iust hundreth pound in gold from me.
I storm'd at it, and swore to be reueng'de 131

If ere we met. He, like a lusty thiefe,
Brake with his teeth this Angel iust in two,

To be a token at our meeting next,
Prouided I should charge no Officer 135

To apprehend him, but at weapons point

Recouer that and what he had beside.

Well met, sir Iohn; betake ye to your tooles
By torch light, for, master parson, you are he
That had my gold. 140

sir Iohn Zounds, I won't in play, in faire
square play, of the keeper of Eltham parke;
and that I will maintaine with this poore whin-
yard, be you two honest men to stand and
looke vpon's, and let's alone, and take neither
part. 146

117 do] giue Q 2, etc. 118 yee] you Q 2, etc.
119 ye] you Ff, etc. 138 ye] you M 145 take om.
Ff, R, Pope

Har. Agreede! I charge ye do not boudge
a foot.

Sir Iohn, haue at ye.

sir Iohn Souldier, ware your skonce.

[Here, as they are ready to strike, enter
Butler and drawes his weapon and
steps betwixt them.

But. Hold, villaines, hold! my Lords, what
do you meane, 150

To see a traitor draw against the King?

sir Iohn The King! Gods wil, I am in a
proper pickle.

Har. Butler, what newes? why dost thou
trouble vs?

But. Please it your Highnesse, it is breake
of day,

And as I skouted neere to Islington, 155

The gray ey'd morning gaue me glimmering

Of armed men comming downe Hygate hill,

Who by their course are coasting hitherward.

Har. Let vs withdraw, my Lords. Prepare
our troopes

To charge the rebels, if there be such cause.

For this lewd priest, this diuellish hypocrite,

That is a thiefe, a gamster, and what not, 162

Let him be hang'd vp for example sake.

sir Iohn Not so my gracious soueraigne.

I confesse I am a frayle man, flesh and bloud
as other are: but, set my imperfections aside,

by this light, ye haue not a taller man, nor a
truer subiect to the Crowne and State, than sir
Iohn of Wrootham.

Har. Wil a true subiect robbe his King? 170

sir Iohn Alas, twas ignorance and want,
my gracious liege.

Har. Twas want of grace. Why, you
should be as salt

To season others with good document,
Your liues as lampes to giue the people light,

As shepheards, not as wolues to spoile the
flock. 175

Go hang him, Butler.

But. Didst thou not rob me?

sir Iohn I must confesse I saw some of
your gold. But, my dread Lord, I am in no

humor for death; therefore, saue my life. God
will that sinners liue; do not you cause me die.

Once in their liues the best may goe astray, and
if the world say true, your selfe (my liege) haue
bin a thiefe.

Har. I confesse I haue, 185

But I repent and haue reclaimd my selfe.

150 villaine Q 2, etc. what d'ye Q 2, Ff 154
Please your Maesty Q 2, etc. 166 others M 167

by this light om. Q 2, etc. ye] you M 169 Wro-
tham is Q 2, etc. 177 This speech added to the pre-
vious one Haz: 180 therefore. . life om. Q 2, etc.

181 wills M me to dye Q 2, etc.

sir Iohn So will I do, if you will giue me time.

Har. Wilt thou? My lords, will you be his suerties?

Hunt. That when he robs againe, he shall be hang'd.

sir Iohn I aske no more. 190

Har. And we will grant thee that.

Liue and repent, and proue an honest man,
Which when I heare, and safe returne from France,

Ile giue thee liuing: till when take thy gold;
But spend it better then at cards or wine, 195
For better vertues fit that coate of thine.

sir Iohn *Vivat Rex & curat lex!* My liege,
if ye haue cause of battell, ye shal see sir Iohn
of Wrootham bestirre himself in your quarrel.
[*exeunt.*]

(SCENE II. *A field of Battle near London.*)

*After an alarm enter Harry, Suffolk, Hunting-
ton, sir Iohn, bringing forth Acton, Beuerly,
and Murley prisoners.*

Har. Bring in those traitors, whose aspiring
minds

Thought to haue triumpht in our ouerthrow.
But now ye see, base villaines, what successe
Attends ill actions wrongfully attempted.
Sir Roger Acton, thou retainst the name 5
Of knight, and shouldst be more discreetly
temperd,

Than ioyne with peasants: gentry is diuine,
But thou hast made it more then popular.

Act. Pardon, my Lord; my conscience vrg'd
me to it.

Har. Thy conscience? then thy conscience
is corrupt, 10

For in thy conscience thou art bound to vs,
And in thy conscience thou shouldst loue thy
country;

Else what's the difference twixt a Christian
And the vnciuil manners of the Turke?

Beuer. We meant no hurt vnto your maiesty,
But reformation of Religion. 16

Har. Reforme Religion? was it that ye
sought?

I pray who gaue you that authority?
Belike, then, we do hold the scepter vp
And sit within the throne but for a cipher. 20
Time was, good subject would make knowne
their grieffe

And pray amendment, not inforce the same,
Vnlesse their King were tyrant, which I hope
You cannot iustly say that Harry is.

What is that other?

25

Suff. A mault-man, my Lord,
And dwelling in Dunstable as he saies.

Har. Sirra, what made you leaue your barly
broth,

To come in armour thus against your King?

Mur. Fie, paltry, paltry; to and fro, in and
out vpon occasion; what a worlde's this!
Knight-hood (my liege) twas knight-hood
brought me hither. They told me I had wealth
enough to make my wife a lady.

Har. And so you brought those horses
which we saw, 35

Trapt all in costly furniture, and meant
To weare these spurs when you were knighted
once?

Mur. In and out vpon occasion, I did.

Har. In and out vpon occasion, therefore,
You shall be hang'd, and in the sted of wearing
These spurs vpon your heeles, about your
necke 41

They shall bewray your folly to the world.

sir Iohn In and out vpon ocasion, that goes
hard.

Mur. Fie, paltry, paltry, to and fro; good
my liege, a pardon. I am sorry for my fault. 45

Har. That comes too late: but tell me, went
there none

Beside sir Roger Acton, vpon whom

You did depend to be your gouernour?

Mur. None, none, my Lord, but sir Iohn
Old-castle.

Har. Beares he part in this conspiracie? 50

enter Bishop.

Act. We lookt, my Lord, that he would meet
vs here.

Har. But did he promise you that he would
come?

Act. Such letters we receiued forth of Kent.
Bish. Where is my Lord the King?—Health
to your grace.

Examining, my Lord, some of these caitiue
rebels, 55

It is a generall voyce amongst them all,
That they had neuer come vnto this place,
But to haue met their valiant general,
The good Lord Cobham, as they title him;
Whereby, my Lord, your grace may now per-
ceiue, 60

His treason is apparant, which before
He sought to colour by his flattery.

Har. Now, by my roialtie, I would haue
sworne,

39-42 *Prose in Qq, Ff: corr. M* 49 None once *Qq,*
Ff: None, my good lord *M* 50 a part *Q 2, etc.*
55 caitiue *om. Q 2, etc.* 56 among *Q 2, etc.* 57
into *Q 2, etc.*

199 of Wrootham *om. Q 2, etc.* Scene II. *etc. add.*
M 17 ye] you *Q 2, etc.*

But for his conscience, which I beare withall,
There had not liude a more true hearted sub-
iect. 65

Bish. It is but counterfeit, my gracious
lord,

And therefore, may it please your maiestie
To set your hand vnto this precept here,
By which weel cause him forthwith to appeare,
And answer this by order of the law. 70

Har. Bishop, not only that, but take com-
mission

To search, attache, imprison, and condemne
This most notorious traitor as you please.

Bish. It shall be done, my Lord, without
delay.—

So now I hold, Lord Cobham, in my hand, 75
That which shall finish thy disdained life.

Har. I thinke the yron age begins but now,
(Which learned poets haue so often taught)
Wherein there is no credit to be giuen, 79
To either wordes, or lookes, or solemne oathes.
For if there were, how often hath he sworne,
How gently tun'de the musicke of his tongue,
And with what amiable face beheld he me,
When all, God knowes, was but hypocrisie.

enter Cobham.

Cob. Long life and prosperous raigne vnto
my Lord. 85

Har. Ah, villaine, canst thou wish pros-
peritie,

Whose heart includeth naught but treacherie?
I do arrest thee here my selfe, false knight,
Of treason capitall against the state.

Cob. Of treason, mightie prince? your grace
mistakes. 90

I hope it is but in the way of mirth.

Har. Thy necke shall feele it is in earnest
shortly.

Darst thou intrude into our presence, knowing
How haynously thou hast offended vs?

But this is thy accustomed deceit; 95
Now thou perceiust thy purpose is in vaine,
With some excuse or other thou wilt come,
To cleere thy selfe of this rebellion.

Cob. Rebellion, good my Lord? I know of
none.

Har. If you deny it, here is euidence. 100
See you these men? you neuer councelled,
Nor offred them assistance in their warres?

Cob. Speake, sirs. Not one but all; I craue
no fauour.

Haue euer I bene conuersant with you,
Or written letters to incourage you, 105
Or kindled but the least or smallest part

Of this your late vnnaturall rebellion?

Speake, for I dare the vttermost you can.

Mur. In and out vpon occasion, I know you
not.

Har. No? didst not say that sir Iohn Old-
castle 110

Was one with whom you purposde to haue
met?

Mur. True, I did say so, but in what respect?
Because I heard it was reported so.

Har. Was there no other argument but
that?

Act. To cleere my conscience ere I die, my
lord, 115

I must confesse, we haue no other ground

But only Rumor, to accuse this lord,

Which now I see was merely fabulous.

Har. The more pernicious you to taint him
then,

Whome you knew not was faulty, yea or no. 120

Cobh. Let this, my Lord, which I present
your grace,

Speake for my loyalty: reade these articles,
And then giue sentence of my life or death.

Har. Earle Cambridge, Scroope, and Gray
corrupted

With bribes from Charles of France, either to
winne 125

My Crowne from me, or secretly contriue

My death by treason? Is this possible?

Cobh. There is the platforme, and their
hands, my lord,

Each seuerally subscribed to the same. 129

Har. Oh neuer heard of, base ingratitude!

Euen those I hugge within my bosome most

Are readiest euermore to sting my heart.

Pardon me, Cobham, I haue done thee wrong;
Heereafter I will liue to make amends.

Is, then, their time of meeting so neere hand?
Weele meete with them, but little for their

ease, 136

If God permit. Goe, take these rebells hence;

Let them haue martiall law: but as for thee,
Friend to thy king and country, still be free.

[*Exeunt.*

Murl. Be it more or lesse, what a world is
this? 140

Would I had continued still of the order of
knaues,

And neuer sought knighthood, since it costes
so deere.

Sir Roger, I may thanke you for all.

Acton. Now tis too late to haue it remedied,
I prithee, Murley, doe not vrge me with it. 145

110 didst thou not Q 2, etc. 120 know was not

Q 2, etc. 127 Is this? 1st Q 2, Ff: Is it M 142

Ends costes Qq, Ff: corr. M

66 lords Q 1 71 Bishop om. Q 2, etc. 81 there]
he Q 2, Ff 85 ynto Q 1

Hunt. Will you away, and make no more to do?
Murl. Fy, paltry, paltry! to and fro, as occasion serues;
 If you be so hasty, take my place.
Hunt. No, good sir knight, you shall begin in your hand. 149
Murl. I could be glad to giue my betters place. [Exeunt.]

(SCENE III. *Kent. Court before lord Cobham's house.*)

Enter Bishop, lord Warden, Croamer the Shrieue, Lady Cob. and attendants.

Bishop I tell ye, Lady, its not possible But you should know where he conueies himselfe,

And you haue hid him in some secret place.
Lady My Lord, beleue me, as I haue a soule,

I know not where my lord my husband is. 5

Bishop Go to, go to, ye are an heretike, And will be forc'de by torture to confesse, If faire meanes will not serue to make ye tell.

Lady My husband is a noble gentleman, And neede not hide himselfe for anie fact 10 That ere I heard of; therefore wrong him not.

Bishop Your husband is a dangerous schismaticke,

Traitor to God, the King, and common wealth: And therefore, master Croamer, shrieue of Kent,

I charge you take her to your custodie, 15 And ceaze the goods of Sir Iohn Old-castle To the Kings vse. Let her go in no more, To fetch so much as her apparell out. There is your warrant from his maiestie.

L. War. Good my Lord Bishop, pacifie your wrath 20 Against the Lady.

Bish. Then let her confesse Where Old-castle her husband is conceald.

L. War. I dare engage mine honor and my life,

Poore gentlewoman, she is ignorant 25 And innocent of all his practises, If any euill by him be practised.

Bish. If, my Lord Warden? nay, then I charge you,

That all the cinque Ports, whereof you are chiefe,

Be laid forthwith, that he escape vs not. 30

149 you .. hand] eene tak't your selfe Q 2, etc. S. D. Exeunt] Between Scene II. and Scene III. S inserts V., I. Scene III. etc. add. M 6 Go too, go ye Q 2, Ff: corr. R ye] you M 8 ye] you Q 2, etc.

Shew him his highnesse warrant, M(aister) Shrieue.

L. War. I am sorie for the noble gentleman—

Enter Old-castle & Harp.

Bish. Peace, he comes here; now do your office.

Old-castle Harpoole, what businesse haue we here in hand?

What makes the Bishop and the Shiriffe here?

(I) feare my comming home is dangerous, 36 (I) would I had not made such haste to Cobham.

Harp. Be of good cheere, my Lord: if they be foes, wee le scramble shrewdly with them; if they be friends, they are welcome. One of them (my Lord Warden) is your friend; but me thinkes my ladie weepes; I like not that.

Croo. Sir Iohn Old-castle, Lord Cobham, in the Kings maiesties name, I arrest ye of high treason. 45

Oldca. Treason, M(aister) Croomer?

Harp. Treason, M(aister) Shrieue? sbloud, what treason?

Oldca. Harpoole, I charge thee, stirre not, but be quiet still. 48

Do ye arrest me, M(aister) Shrieue, for treason?

Bish. Yea, of high treason, traitor, heretike.

Oldca. Defiance in his face that calls me so. I am as true a loyall gentleman

Vnto his highnesse, as my prowdest enemy.

The King shall witness my late faithfull seruice,

For safety of his sacred maiestie. 55

Bish. What thou art the kings hand shall testifie:

Shewt him, Lord Warden.

Old. Iesu defend me!

Is't possible your cunning could so temper

The princely disposition of his mind, 60

To signe the damage of a loyall subiect?

Well, the best is, it beares an antedate,

Procured by my absence, and your malice,

But I, since that, haue shewd my selfe as true

As any churchman that dare challenge me. 65

Let me be brought before his maiestie;

If he acquite me not, then do your worst.

Bish. We are not bound to do kind offices

For any traitor, schismaticke, nor heretike.

The kings hand is our warrant for our worke,

Who is departed on his way for France, 71

36 feare Q 1: I feare Q 2, etc. 37 would Q 1: I would Q 2, etc. 40-2 One .. like not that om. Q 2, etc.

44 maiesties om. Q 2, etc. ye] you M 46 Croomes Qq: corr. Ff 47 sbloud om. Q 2, etc. 48 still om. Q 2, etc. 49 ye] you M of Treason M. Shiriffe Q 2, etc. 57 Shewt] Shew Q 2, etc.

61 royall Qq, Ff: corr. R

And at Southhampton doth repose this night.

Harp. O that it were the blessed will of God, that thou and I were within twenty mile of it, on Salisbury plaine! I would lose my head if euer thou broughtst thy head hither againe.

[*aside.*

Oldca. My Lord Warden o'th cinque Ports, & my Lord of Rochester, ye are ioynt Commissioners: fauor me so much,

On my expence to bring me to the king. 80

Bish. What, to Southhampton?

Oldca. Thither, my go(o)d Lord, And if he do not cleere me of al guilt, And all suspection of conspiracie, Pawning his princely warrant for my truth: I aske no fauour, but extreamest torture. 86 Bring me, or send me to him, good my Lord:

Good my Lord Warden, M(aister) Shrieue, entreate.

[*Here the Lord Warden, and Cromer vncouer to the Bishop, and secretly whispers with him.*

Come hither, lady—nay, sweet wife, forbear

To heape one sorrow on anothers necke: 90

Tis grieve enough falsly to be accusde,

And not permitted to acquite my selfe;

Do not thou with thy kind respectiue teares,

Torment thy husbands heart that bleedes for thee,

But be of comfort. God hath help in store 95

For those that put assured trust in him.

Deere wife, if they commit me to the Tower,

Come vp to London to your sisters house:

That being neere me, you may comfort me.

One solace find I settled in my soule, 100

That I am free from treasons very thought:

Only my conscience for the Gospels sake

Is cause of all the troubles I sustaine.

Lady. O my deere Lord, what shall betide of vs? 104

You to the Tower, and I turnd out of doores,

Our substance ceaz'd vnto his highnesse vse,

Euen to the garments longing to our backes.

Harp. Patience, good madame, things at worst will mend,

And if they doe not, yet our liues may end.

Bish. Vrge it no more, for if an Angell spake, 110

I sweare by sweet saint Peters blessed keyes,

First goes he to the Tower, then to the stake.

Crom. But by your leaue, this warrant doth not stretch

To imprison her.

Bishop No, turne her out of doores, 115

[*L. Warden and Oldcastle whisper.*

Euen as she is, and leade him to the Tower, With guard enough for feare of rescuing.

Lady O, God requite thee, thou bloud-thirsty man.

Oldca. May it not be, my Lord of Rochester? Wherein haue I incurd your hate so farre, 120

That my appeale vnto the King's denide?

Bish. No hate of mine, but power of holy church,

Forbids all fauor to false heretikes.

Oldca. Your priuate malice, more than publike power, 124

Strikes most at me, but with my life it ends.

Harp. O that I had the Bishop in that feare, [*aside.*

That once I had his Sumner by our selues!

Crom. My Lord, yet graunt one sute vnto vs all,

That this same auncient seruing man may waite

Vpon my lord his master in the Tower. 130

Bish. This old iniquitie, this heretike?

That, in contempt of our church discipline,

Compeld my Sumner to deuoure his processe!

Old Ruffian past-grace, vpstart schismaticke,

Had not the King prayd vs to pardon ye, 135

Ye had fryed for it, ye grizild heretike.

Harp. Shloud, my lord Bishop, ye do me wrong. I am neither heretike nor puritane,

but of the old church: ile sweare, drinke ale,

kisse a wench, go to masse, eate fish all Lent,

and fast fridaies with cakes and wine, fruite

and spicerie, shriue me of my old sinnes afore

Easter, and beginne new afore whitsontide.

Crom. A merie, mad, conceited knaue, my lord.

Harp. That knaue was simply put vpon the Bishop. 145

Bish. Wel, God forgiue him and I pardon him.

Let him attend his master in the Tower,

For I in charity wish his soule no hurt.

Oldca. God blesse my soule from such cold charitie!

Bish. Too'th Tower with him, and when my leisure serues, 150

I will examine him of Articles.

Looke, my lord Warden, as you haue in charge,

The Shriue performe his office.

L. Ward. Yes, my lord.

73 that .i. God om. Q 2, etc. 74 miles Q 2, etc.
76 euer om. Q 2, etc. 78 my om. Q 2, etc. S. D.
They both entreat for him Q 2, etc.

115 S. D. om. Q 2, etc. 136 You .i. you M 137-8
ye wrong me Q 2, etc. 137 ye] you M 154 Yes] I
Q 2, f; Ay R, etc.

Enter the Sumner with bookes.

Bish. Whatbringst thou there? what, bookes
of heresie? 155

Som. Yea, my lord, heres not a latine
booke, no, not so much as our ladies Psalter.
Heres the Bible, the testament, the Psalmes in
meter, the sickemans salue, the treasure of
gladnesse, and al in English, not so much but
the Almanack's English. 161

Bish. Away with them, to'th fire with them,
Clun!

Now fie vpon these vpstart heretikes.

Al English! burne them, burne them quickly,
Clun! 164

Harp. But doe not, Sumner, as youle
answer it, for I haue there English bookes,
my lord, that ile not part with for your Bishopp-
ricke: Beuis of Hampton, Owleglasse, the
Frier and the Boy, Ellenor Rumming, Robin
hood, and other such godly stories, which if ye
burne, by this flesh, ile make ye drink their
ashes in S(aint) Margets ale. [exeunt.

(SCENE IV. *The entrance of the Tower.*)

*Enter the Bishop of Rochester with his men in
liuerie coates.*

1. *Ser.* Is it your honors pleasure we shal
stay,
Or come backe in the afternoone to fetch
you?

Bish. Now you haue brought me heere into
the Tower,

You may go backe vnto the Porters Lodge,
And send for drinke or such things as you
want, 5

Where if I haue occasion to imploy you,
Ile send some officer to cal you to me.

Into the cittie go not, I commaund you:

Perhaps I may haue present neede to vse
you.

2 We will attend your worship here without.

Bish. Do so, I pray you. 11

3 Come, we may haue a quart of wine at
the Rose at Barking, I warrant you, and come
backe an hower before he be ready to go.

1 We must hie vs then. 15

3 Let's away. [exeunt.

Bish. Ho, M(aister) Lieftenant.

Lieften. Who calls there?

Bish. A friend of yours.

156-61 *Verse Qq* 160 and *om. Q 2, etc.* All English,
no not *Q 2, etc.* 167 with] withal *Q 2, etc.* 169
Ellen of *Qq. Ff:* *corr. M* Scene IV. *etc. add. M*
Act V begins here in S 5 *om. Q 2, etc.* 10 worship]
honor *Q 2, etc.* 11 *om. Q 2, etc.* 13 I warrant you
om. Q 2, etc. 14 before he'l go *Q 2, etc.*

Lieften. My lord of Rochester! your honor's
welcome. 20

Bish. Sir, heres my warrant from the Coun-
sell,

For conference with sir Iohn Old-castle,
Vpon some matter of great consequence.

Lieften. Ho, sir Iohn!

Harp. Who calls there? 25

Lieften. Harpoole, tel Sir Iohn, that my
lord of Rochester

Comes from the counsell to conferre with him.

Harp. I will, sir.

Lief. I thinke you may as safe without sus-
pition,

As any man in England, as I heare, 30
For it was you most labor'd his commitment.

Bish. I did, sir, and nothing repent it, I
assure you.

Enter sir Iohn Old-castle (and Harpool).

M(aister) Lieftenant, I pray you giue vs leaue,
I must conferre here with sir Iohn a little.

Lief. With all my heart, my lord. 35

Harp (aside). My lord, be rulde by me: take
this occasion while tis offered, and on my life
your lordship shal escape.

Old-ca. No more, I say; peace, lest he should
suspect it. 39

Bish. Sir Iohn, I am come vnto you from
the lords of his highnesse most honorable
counsell, to know if yet you do recant your
errors, conforming you vnto the holy church.

Old-ca. My lord of Rochester, on good
aduise,

I see my error, but yet, vnderstand me, 45
I meane not error in the faith I hold,

But error in submitting to your pleasure;

Therefore, your lordship, without more to do,
Must be a meanes to help me to escape.

Bish. What meanes, thou heretike? 50

Darst thou but lift thy hand against my calling?
sir Iohn No, not to hurt you for a thousand
pound.

Harp. Nothing but to borrow your vpper
garments a little; not a word more, for if you
do, you die: peace, for waking the children.
There; put them on; dispatch, my lord. The
window that goes out into the leads is sure
enough, I told you that before: there, make

28 *om. Q 2, etc.* *S. D.* and Harpool *add. R* 36-8
Verse M 38 shal] wil *Q 2, etc.* 40 vnto] to *Q 2,*
etc. 41-2 of the Counsell *Q 2, etc.* 42 yet *om.*
Q 2, etc. 43 conforming... church *om. Q 2, etc.*
54-5 for if... die *om. Q 2, etc.* 58-60 I told you...
roomel] and as for you, *etc.* I bind you surely in the
inner roomel *Q 2:* as for you, *etc.* *Ff, M, etc.:* but
for you, *etc.* *R, Pope*

you ready; ile conuay him after, and bind him surely in the inner roome. 60

(*Carries the bishop into the Tower, and returns.*)

Old-ca. This is wel begun; God send vs happie speed,

Hard shift you see men make in time of need. Harpoole.

(*Puts on the bishop's cloak.*)

Harp. Heere my Lord; come, come away.

Enter seruing men againe.

1 I maruell that my lord should stay so long.

2 He hath sent to seeke vs, I dare lay my life. 65

3 We come in good time; see, where he is comming.

Harp. I beseech you, good my lord of Rochester, be fauorable to my lord and maister.

Old-ca. The inner roomes be very hot and close,

I do not like this ayre here in the Tower. 70

Harp. His case is hard my lord.—You shall safely get out of the Tower; but I will downe vpon them, in which time get you away.

Old-ca. Fellow, thou troublest me. 74

Harp. Heare me, my Lord!—Hard vnder Islington wait you my comming; I will bring my Lady, ready with horses to conuay you hence.

Old-ca. Fellow, go back againe vnto thy Lord and counsell him. 79

Harp. Nay, my good lord of Rochester, ile bring you to S(aint) Albons through the woods, I warrant you.

Old-ca. Villaine, away. 83

Harp. Nay, since I am past the Towers libertie, thou part'st not so. [*he draws.*]

Old-ca. Clubbes, clubs, clubs!

1 Murther, murther, murther!

2 Downe with him! [*they fight.*]

3 A villaine traitor!

Harp. You cowardly rogues! 90

[*sir Iohn escapes.*]

Enter Lieftenant and his men.

Lieft. Who is so bold as dare to draw a sword,

So neare vnto the entrance of the Tower?

1 This ruffian, seruaut to sir Iohn Old-castle,

60, 62 S. D. add. M 62-3 Harpoole . . . come away om. Q 2, etc. 72 safely] scarcely M 74-5 Old-ca. . . my Lord om. Q 2, etc. 77 to get hence Q 2, etc. 85 you part Q 2, etc. 86 *Prisr* Bish. Qq. Ff: Cob. R 89 om. Q 2, etc. 90 You] Out you Q 2, etc. 91 as to dare Ff: to dare R, etc. 93-4 *Prose* Qq, Ff: *corr.* M

Was like to haue slaine my Lord.

Lieft. Lay hold on him. 95

Harp. Stand off if you loue your puddings.

Rochester calls within.

Roch (within). Help, help, help! M(aister) Lieftenant, help!

Lieft. Who's that within? some treason in the Tower

Vpon my life. Looke in; who's that which calls? 100

enter Roch. bound.

Lieft. Without your cloke, my lord of Rochester?

Harp. There, now it workes, then let me speed, for now

Is the fittest time for me to scape away. [*exit.*]

Lieft. Why do you looke so ghastly and affrighted?

Roch. Old-castle, that traitor, and his man, 105

When you had left me to conferre with him, Tooke, bound, and stript me, as you see, And left me lying in his inner chamber, And so departed, and I—

Lieft. And you? ne're say that the Lord Cobhams man 110

Did here set vpon you like to murther you.

1 And so he did.

Roch. It was vpon his master then he did,

That in the brawle the traitor might escape.

Lieft. Where is this Harpoole? 115

2 Here he was euen now.

Lieft. Where? can you tell?

(2) They are both escap'd.

(*Lieft.*) Since it so happens that he is escap'd,

I am glad you are a witnessse of the same, 120 It might haue else beene laid vnto my charge,

That I had beene consenting to the fact.

Roch. Come, search shal be made for him with expedition,

The hauens laid that he shall not escape, And hue and crie continue thorough England, 125

To find this damned, dangerous heretike.

[*exeunt.*]

99-100 *Prose* Qq, Ff: *corr.* M 100 Vpon] on Q 2 Ff 102-3 *Prose* Q 1 102 now I see it M 103 for me om. Q 2, etc. 108 his] this Ff 109 and I given to 1 Ser. M 110 you? ne're] you now M 111 vpon] on Q 2, etc. 117 Where fled, can M 118 They . . . escap'd given to Lieft. Qq, Ff: *alteration* con. S'. 123-6 *Prose* Qq, Ff: *corr.* R 124 Haven's Ff, etc. 125 through Q 2, Ff: throughout M, etc.

(ACT V.

SCENE I. *A room in lord Cobham's house in Kent.*

Enter Cambridge, Scroope, and Gray, as in a chamber, and set downe at a table, consulting about their treason: King Harry and Suffolke listning at the doore.

Camb. In mine opinion, Scroope hath well aduise,

Poison will be the only aptest meane,
And fittest for our purpose to dispatch him.

Gray But yet there may be doubt in their deliuery. 4

Harry is wise; therefore, Earle of Cambridge,
I Iudge that way not so conuenient.

Scroop What thinke ye then of this? I am
his bedfellow,

And vnsuspected nightly sleepe with him.
What if I venture in those silent houres,
When sleepe hath sealed vp all mortall eies, 10
To murder him in bed? how like ye that?

Camb. Herein consistes no safetie for your
selfe,

And, you disclosde, what shall become of vs?
But this day (as ye know) he will aboard—
The winds so faire—and set away for France.

If, as he goes, or entring in the ship, 16
It might be done, then it were excellent.

Gray Why any of these, or, if you will, Ile
cause

A present sitting of the Councell, wherein
I will pretend some matter of such weight, 20
As needes must haue his royall company,
And so dispatch him in the Councell chamber.

Camb. Tush, yet I heare not any thing to
purpose.

I wonder that lord Cobham staies so long;
His counsell in this case would much auaille vs.

*[They rise from the table, and the King
steps in to them, with his Lordes.]*

Scroop What, shal we rise thus, and deter-
mine nothing? 26

Har. That were a shame indeede; no, sit
again,

And you shall haue my counsell in this case.
If you can find no way to kill this King,
Then you shall see how I can further ye: 30
Scroopes way by poison was indifferent,
But yet, being bed-fellow vnto the King,
And vnsuspected sleeping in his bosome,
In mine opinion, that's the likelier way,

Act V, etc. add. M Act V, Sc. I follows IV. II S
4 the] the M 5 and therefore R 15 wind Q 1
17 then were it Q 2, etc. 18, 19 Lines end will,
Councell Qq. Ff. corr. M 22 so Q 2, etc.: to Q 1
the] his Q 2, etc. 29 this] the Q 2, etc. 30 further]
furnish Ff, etc. ye] you M 32 vnto] to Q 2, etc.

For such false friends are able to do much, 35
And silent night is Treason's fittest friend.
Now, Cambridge, in his setting hence for
France,

Or by the way, or as he goes aboard,
To do the deed, that was indifferent too,
Yet somewhat doubtful, might I speake my
mind, 40

For many reasons needelesse now to vrge.
Mary, Lord Gray came something neare the
point:

To haue the King at counsell, and there mur-
der him,

As Cæsar was, amongst his dearest friends:
None like to that, if all were of his mind. 45
Tell me, oh tel me, you, bright honors
staies,

For which of all my kindnesses to you,
Are ye become thus traitors to your king,
And France must haue the spoile of Harries
life?

All. Oh pardon vs, dread lord. 50
[all kneeling.]

Har. How, pardon ye? that were a sinne
indeed.

Drag them to death, which iustly they deserue,
[they leade them away.]

And France shall dearely buy this villany,
So soone as we set footing on her breast.

God haue the praise for our deliuerance; 55
And next, our thanks, Lord Cobham, is to
thee,

True perfect mirror of nobilitie. [exeunt.]

(SCENE II. *A high road near St. Albans.*)

Enter Priest and Doll.

sir Iohn Come, Dol, come; be mery, wench.
Farewell, Kent, we are not for thee.

Be lusty, my lasse, come, for Lancashire,
We must nip the Bounge for these crownes.

Doll Why, is all the gold spent already that
you had the other day? 6

sir Iohn Gone, Doll, gone; flowne, spent,
vanished: the diuel, drinke and the dice has
deuoured all.

Doll You might haue left me in Kent, that
you might, vntil you had bin better provided,
I could haue staied at Cobham. 12

sir Iohn No, Dol, no, ile none of that;
Kent's too hot, Doll, Kent's too hot. The
weathercocke of Wrotham will crow no longer:

40 Yet] But Q 2, etc. 40-1 might I . . vrge om. Q 2,
etc. 42 something] verie Q 2, etc. 45 om. Q 2, etc.
57 S. D. exeunt] The following scenes have been misplaced
in Qq. Ff, the order being: 4-7. 2. 3. 8: corr. R
Scene II, etc. add. M 10-11 Kent till Q 2, etc. 12
I . . Cobham om. Q 2, etc. 13 ile . . that om. Q 2, etc.

we haue pluckt him, he has lost his feathers;
I haue prunde him bare, left him thrice; is
moulted, is moulted, wench.

Doll Faith, sir Iohn, I might haue gone to
seruice againe; old maister Harpoole told me
he would prouide me a mistris.

sir Iohn Peace, Doll, peace. Come, mad
wench, Ile make thee an honest woman; weele
into Lancashire to our friends: the troth is, Ile
marry thee. We want but a little mony to
buy vs a horse, and to spend by the way; the
next sheep that comes shal loose his fleece,
weele haue these crownes, wench, I warrant
thee.

enter the Irish man with his master slaine.

Stay, who comes here? some Irish vil-
laine, me thinks, that has slaine a man, and
drawes him out of the way to rifle him. Stand
close, Doll, weele see the end.

[The Irish man falls to rifle his master.

(Irishman.) Alas, poe mester, S(ir) Richard
Lee, be saint Patricke is rob and cut thy trote
for dee shaine, and dy money, and dee gold
ring be me truly: is loue thee wel, but now
dow be kil, thee bee shitten kanaue.

sir Iohn. Stand, sirra; what art thou?

Irishman. Be saint Patricke, mester, is pore
Irisman, is a leuffer.

sir Iohn Sirra, sirra, you are a damned
rogue; you haue killed a man here, and rifled
him of all that he has. Sbloud, you rogue,
deliuer, or ile not leaue you so much as an
Irish haire about your shouldders, you whorsen
Irish dogge. Sirra, vntrusse presently; come,
off and dispatch, or by this crosse ile fetch your
head off as cleane as a barke.

Irishman. Wees me, saint Patricke! Ise
kill me mester for chaine and his ring, and
nows be rob of all: mees vndoo.

[Priest robs him.

sir Iohn Auant, you rascal! Go, sirra, be
waiking. Come, Doll, the diuel laughs, when
one theefe robs another: come, madde wench,
weele to saint Albons, and reuel in our bower;
hey, my braue girle.

Doll. O thou art old sir Iohn when all's done,
yaith.

(Exeunt.)

17 prun'd him, left him bare thrice *conj. St.* 17-
18 is. . . is] he is. . . he is *M* 19 Faith, sir Iohn *om.*
Q 2, etc. 25-7 to buy. . . fleece *om. Q 2, etc.* 28
weele. . . wench] & money we will haue *Q 2, etc.*
31-2 and drawes. . . rifle him] and now is rifling on
him *Q 2: and now he is, etc. Ff* 36 dee gold] dy
golde *Q 2, etc.* 37 dee well *Q 2, etc.* 38 kil dee *Q 2,*
Ff: kill, dow *M* 46 Irish *om. Q 2, etc.* 47-9
Sirra. . . barke *om. Q 2, etc.* 50 by saint *M* 51
for his shain *M* 52 now I se *M* 57 hey *om.*
Q 2, etc. *S. D. add. R*

*(SCENE III. St. Albans. The entrance of a
carrier's inn.)*

Enter the hoste of the Bell with the Irish man.

Irishman Be me tro, mester, is pore Irisman,
is want ludging, is haue no mony, is starue
and cold: good mester, giue her some meate;
is famise and tie.

Host Yfaith, my fellow, I haue no lodging,
but what I keep for my guesse, that I may not
disapoint; as for meate thou shalt haue such
as there is, & if thou wilt lie in the barne,
theres faire straw, and roome enough.

Irishman Is thanke my mester hartily, de
straw is good bed for me.

Host Ho, Robin!

Robin Who calls?

Host Shew this poore Irishman into the
barne; go, sirra.

[exeunt.]

Enter carrier and Kate.

Club. Ho, who's within here? who lookes
to the horses? Gods hatte! heres fine worke:
the hens in the manger, and the hogs in the
litter. A bots found you all; heres a house
well lookt too, yvaith.

Kate Mas, goffe Club, Ise very cawd.

Club. Get in, Kate, get in to fier and warme
thee.

Club Ho! Iohn Hostler.

(Enter Hostler.)

Hostler What, gaffer Club? welcome to
saint Albons. How does all our friends in
Lancashire?

Club Well, God haue mercie, Iohn; how
does Tom; wheres he?

Hostler O, Tom is gone from hence; hees
at the three horse-loues at Stony-stratford.
How does old Dick Dunne?

Club Gods hatte, old Dunne has bin moyerd
in a slough in Brickhil-lane, a plague found it;
yonder is such abhomination weather as neuer
was seene.

Hostler. Gods hat, thiefe, haue one half
pecke of pease and oates more for that: as I am
Iohn Ostler, hee has been euer as good a iade
as euer traueled.

Club Faith, well said, old Iacke; thou art
the old lad stil.

Scene III. *etc. add. M* 5 Faith fellow *Q 2, etc.*
6 Guests *F 2, etc.* 6-7 that. . . disapoint *om. Q 2,*
etc. 7 such] as much *Q 2, etc.* 10-11 de straw. .
me *om. Q 2, etc.* 14 into] to *Q 2, etc.* 16 Ho *om.*
Q 2, etc. 17 Vds hat *Q 2, Ff:* Uds heart *M* 24
Ho *om. Q 2, etc.* 28 God a mercy *Q 2, etc.* 30
Q om. Q 2, etc. 33. 37 Vds hat *Q 2, Ff:* Uds heart
M 35 as was neuer *Q 2, etc.*

Hostler Come, Gaffer Club, vnload, vnload,
and get to supper, and Ile rub dunne the while.
Come. [exeunt.]

(SCENE IV. *The same. A room in the carrier's inn.*)

Enter the hoste, sir Iohn Old-castle, and Harpoole.

Hoste Sir, you are welcome to this house,
to such as heere is with all my heart, but, by
the masse, I feare your lodging wilbe the
woorst. I haue but two beds, and they are
both in a chamber, and the carier and his
daughter lies in the one, and you and your
wife must lie in the other. 7

L. Cobh. In faith, sir, for my selfe I doe not
greatly passe.

My wife is weary, and would be at rest,
For we haue traueled very far to day; 10

We must be content with such as you haue.

Hoste But I cannot tell how to doe with
your man.

Harpoole What, hast thou neuer an empty
roome in thy house for me? 15

Hoste Not a bedde, by my troth: there came
a poore Irish man, and I lodgde him in the
barne, where he has faire straw, though he
haue nothing else.

Harp. Well, mine hoste, I pray thee helpe
mee to a payre of faire sheetes, and Ile go
lodge with him. 22

Hoste By the masse, that thou shalt; a good
payre of hempen sheetes, were neuer laine in:
Come. [exeunt.]

(SCENE V. *The same. A street.*)

Enter Constable, Maior, and Watch.

Maior What? haue you searcht the towne?

Const. All the towne, sir; we haue not left
a house vnsearcht that vses to lodge.

Maior Surely, my lord of Rochester was
then deceiude,

Or ill informde of sir Iohn Old-castle, 5
Or if he came this way hees past the towne.

He could not else haue scapt you in the
search.

Const. The priuy watch hath beene abroad
all night,

And not a stranger lodgeth in the towne
But he is knowne: onely a lusty priest 10

44-5 and Ile. . Come om. Q 2, etc. Scene IV. etc.
add. M 1 Sir, y'are Q 2, Ff 2 is heere Q 2, etc.
2-3 by the masse om. Q 2, etc. 8 Faith Q 2, etc.
12 how] what M 16 in troth Q 2, etc. 18 al-
though Q 2, etc. 20 prethee Q 2: prythee Ff, etc.
21 faire] cleane Q 2, etc. Scene V. etc. add. M

We found in bed with a pretty wench,
That sayes she is his wife—yonder at the
sheeres:

But we haue chargde the hoste with his forth
comming

To morow morning.

Maior What thinke you best to do? 15

Const. Faith, maister maior, heeres a few
stragling houses beyond the bridge, and a little
Inne where cariers vse to lodge, though I
thinke surely he would nere lodge there: but
weele go search, & the rather, because there
came notice to the towne the last night of an
Irish man, that had done a murder, whome
we are to make search for. 23

Maior Come, I pray you, and be circum-
spect. [exeunt.]

(SCENE VI. *The same. Before the Carrier's inn. Enter Watch.*)

1 *Watch.* First beset the house, before you
begin the search.

2 *Watch.* Content; euery man take a seuerall
place. [heere is heard a great noyse within.

*Keepe, keepe, strike him downe there, downe
with him.* 5

*Enter Constable with the Irish man in Har-
pooles apparell.*

Con. Come, you villainous heretique, con-
fesse where your maister is.

Irish man Vat mester?

Maior Vat mester, you counterfeit rebell?
this shall not serue your turne. 10

Irish man Be sent Patrike I ha no mester.

Con. Wheres the lord Cobham, sir Iohn
Old-castle, that lately is escaped out of the
Tower.

Irish man. Vat lort Cobham? 15

Maior You counterfeit, this shal not serue
you; weele torture you, weele make you to
confesse where that arch-heretique, Lord Cob-
ham, is: come, binde him fast.

Irish man Ahone, ahone, ahone, a Cree! 20
Con. Ahone, you crafty rascal! [exeunt.]

(SCENE VII. *The same. The yard of the Inn.*)
Lord Cobham comes out in his gowne stealing.

Cobh. Harpoole, Harpoole, I heare a mar-
uelous noyse about the house; God warant vs,
I feare wee are pursued: what, Harpoole.

11 a young pretty M 18 although Q 2, etc. 24
Come] Come, then M Scene VI. etc. add. M 1
Prefix Const. Q 2, Ff: altered M 3 Prefix Officer Q 2,
Ff: altered M 6-7 confesse] tell vs. Q 2, etc. 13 is
om. Q 2, etc. 18-19 Lord Cobham om. Q 2, etc. Scene
VII. etc. add. M 1-3 Verse M, dir. after noyse, feare

Harp. within. Who calles there?

Cobh. Tis I; dost thou not heare a noyse about the house? 6

Harp. Yes, mary, doe I:—zwounds, I can not finde my hose; this Irish rascall that was lodgde with me all night hath stolne my apparell, and has left me nothing but a lowsie mantle, and a paire of broags. Get vp, get vp, and if the carier and his wench be asleep, change you with them as he hath done with me, and see if we can escape. (*Exit lord Cobham.*)

[*A noyse againe heard about the house, a pretty while; then enter the Constable, meeting Harpoole in the Irish mans apparell.*]

Con. Stand close, heere comes the Irish man that didde the murther; by all tokens, this is he. 17

Maior And perceiuing the house beset, would get away. Stand, sirra.

Harp. What art thou that bidst me stand?

Con. I am the Officer, and am come to search for an Irish man, such a villaine as thy selfe, that hast murdered a man this last night by the hie way. 24

Harp. Sbloud, Constable, art thou madde? am I an Irish man?

Maior Sirra, weele finde you an Irish man before we part: lay hold vpon him.

Con. Make him fast. O thou bloudy rogue!

Enter Lord Cobham and his lady in the carrier and wenchs apparell.

Cobham What, will these Ostlers sleepe all day? 30

Good morow, good morow. Come, wench, come.

Saddle! saddle! Now afore God too fair dayes, ha?

Con. Who comes there?

Maior Oh, tis Lankashire carier; let him passe. 35

Cobham What, will no body open the gates here?

Come, lets int stable to looke to our capons.

(*Exeunt Cobham and his Lady.*)

The carrier calling.

Club (calling) Hoste! why ostler! zwookes, heres such a bomination company of boies. A pox of this pigstie at the house end; it filles all the house full of fleas. Ostler! ostler! 41

7-14 Verse *M*, dir, after find, me, and, mantle, and if, asleep, me 14 *S. D. add. M* Scene VIII. The same *add. M* 32 foord-dayes *Q 1*: farre-dayes *Q 2*: corr. *Ff* 33 comes) goes *Q 2*, etc. 34 him) them *Ff*, etc. 36 ope *Q 2*, etc. 37 capuls conj. *Percy S. D. add. R*

(*Enter Ostler.*)

Ostler Who calles there? what would you haue?

Club Zwookes, do you robbe your ghests? doe you lodge rogues and slaues, and scoundrels, ha? they ha stolne our cloths here: why, ostler! 47

Ostler A murrein choake you, what a bawling you keepe.

(*Enter Host.*)

Hoste How now, what woulde the carrier haue? looke vp there. 51

Ostler They say that the man and woman that lay by them haue stolne their clothes.

Hoste What, are the strange folkes vp yet that came in yester night?

Const. What, mine hoste, vp so early? 56

Hoste What, maister Maior, and maister Constable!

Maior We are come to seeke for some suspected persons, And such as heere we found, haue apprehended. 60

Enter the Carrier and Kate in lord Cobham and ladies apparell.

Con. Who comes heere?

Club Who comes here? a plague found omel you bawle, quoth al ods hat, Ile forzweare your house: you lodgde a fellow and his wife by vs that ha runne away with our parrel, and left vs such gew-gawes here!—Come Kate, come to mee, thowse dizeard, yfaith. 67

Maior Mine hoste, know you this man?

Hoste Yes, maister Maior, Ile giue my word for him. Why, neibor Club, how comes this geare about? 71

Kate Now, a fowle ont, I can not make this gew-gaw stand on my head: now the lads and the lasses won flowt me too too—

Const. How came this man and woman thus attired? 76

Hoste Here came a man and woman hither this last night, which I did take for substantiall people, and lodgde all in one chamber by these folkes, mee thinkes, haue beene so bolde to change apparell, and gone away this morning ere they rose. 82

Maior That was that villaine traitour, Oldcastle, that thus escaped vs: make out huy and cry yet after him, keepe fast that traiterous

41, 49 *S. D. D. add. M* 44-7 Verse *Q 2*, etc., dir, after guests, ha 52 that om. *Ff* and the woman *Q 2*, etc. 54 yet om. *M* 63 foreweare *Q 2*, *Ff* 73-4 now . . . too too om. *Q 2*, etc. 77-92 Verse *M* 80 haue) they have *M* 83 villaine om. *Q 2*, etc. 84 out om. *Q 2*, etc.

rebell, his seruant, there: farewell, mine
hose.

Carier Come, Kate Owdham, thou and Ise
trimly dizard. 89

Kate Ifaith, neame Club, Ise wot nere what
to do, Ise be so flowted and so showted at: but
byth messe Ise cry. [exeunt.]

(SCENE VIII. *A wood near St. Albans.*)

*Enter sir Iohn Old-castle, and his Lady
disguise.*

Oldca. Come, Madam, happily escapt; here
let vs sit.

This place is farre remote from any path,
And here awhile our weary limbs may rest,
To take refreshing, free from the pursuite
Of enuious Rochester. 5

Lady But where, my Lord,
Shall we find rest for our disquiet minds?
These dwell vtamed thoughts that hardly
stoupe,

To such abasement of disdained rags.
We were not wont to trauell thus by night, 10
Especially on foote.

Oldca. No matter, lous;
Extremities admit no better choice,
And were it not for thee, say froward time
Imposde a greater taske, I would esteeme it 15
As lightly as the wind that blowes vpon vs;
But in thy sufferance I am doubly taskt.
Thou wast not wont to haue the earth thy
stoole,

Nor the moist dewy grasse thy pillow, nor
Thy chamber to be the wide horrison. 20

Lady How can it seeme a trouble, hauing
you

A partner with me in the worst I feele?
No, gentle Lord, your presence would giue
ease

To death it selfe, should he now seaze vpon me.
Behold what my foresight hath vndertane 25
[*heres bread and cheese & a bottle.*]

For feare we faint; they are but homely cates,
Yet saucde with hunger, they may seeme as
sweete

As greater dainties we were wont to taste.

Oldca. Praise be to him whose plentie sends
both this

And all things else our mortall bodies need; 30
Nor scorne we this poore feeding, nor the state
We now are in, for what is it on earth,
Nay, vnder heauen, continues at a stay?
Ebbes not the sea, when it hath ouerflowne?
Followes not darknes when the day is gone? 35

Scene VIII. etc.] Scene IX. etc. M 5 Winchester
Q 1 35 Flowes Q 1: corr. Q 2

And see we not sometime the eie of heauen
Dimmd with ouerflying clowdes: theres not
that worke

Of carefull nature, or of cunning art,
(How strong, how beauteous, or how rich it
be)

But falls in time to ruine. Here, gentle
Madame, 40

In this one draught I wash my sorrow downe.
[drinckes.]

Lady And I, incoragde with your cheere-
full speech,
Will do the like.

Oldca. Pray God poore Harpoole come.
If he should fall into the Bishops hands, 45
Or not remember where we bade him meete vs,
It were the thing of all things else, that now
Could breede reuolt in this new peace of mind.

Lady Feare not, my Lord, hees witty to
deuise,

And strong to execute a present shift. 50
Oldca. That power be stil his guide hath
guided vs!

My drowsie eies waxe heauy: earely rising,
Together with the trauell we haue had,
Make me that I could gladly take a nap,
Were I perswaded we might be secure. 55

Lady Let that depend on me: whilst you
do sleepe,

Ile watch that no misfortune happen vs.
Lay then your head vpon my lap, sweete Lord,
And boldly take your rest.

Oldca. I shal, deare wife, 60
Be too much trouble to thee.

Lady Vrge not that;
My duty binds me, and your loue commands.
I would I had the skil with tuned voyce

To draw on sleep with some sweet melodie, 65
But imperfection, and vnaptnesse too,
Are both repugnant: feare inserts the one,
The other nature hath denied me vse.

But what talke I of meanes to purchase that,
Is freely hapned? sleepe with gentle hand 70
Hath shut his eie-liddes. Oh victorious labour,
How soone thy power can charme the bodies
sense?

And now thou likewise climbst vnto my braine,
Making my heauy temples stoupe to thee. 74
Great God of heauen from danger keepe vs
free. [both sleepees.]

Enter sir Richard Lee, and his men.

Lee. A murder closely done, and in my
ground?

Search carefully, if any where it were,

36 sometimes F 2, etc. 54 Makes Q 2, etc. 58-9
Lay . . rest om. Q 2, etc. 66 imperfectoin Q 1

This obscure thicket is the likeliest place.

servant. Sir, I haue found the body stiffe with cold,
And mangled cruelly with many wounds. 80
Lee Looke if thou knowest him, turne his body vp.—

Alacke, it is my son, my sonne and heire,
Whom two yeares since I sent to Ireland,
To practise there the discipline of warre,
And comming home (for so he wrote to me) 85
Some sauage hart, some bloody diuellish hand,
Either in hate, or thirsting for his coyne,
Hath here slude out his bloud. Vnhappy
houre,

Accursed place, but most inconstant fate,
That hadst reserued him from the bullets fire,
And suffered him to scape the wood-karnes
fury, 91

Didst here ordaine the treasure of his life,
(Euen here within the armes of tender peace,
And where security gaue greatest hope)
To be consumed by treasons wastefull hand!
And what is most afflictive to my soule, 96
That this his death and murther should be
wrought

Without the knowledge by whose meanes twas
done.

2 *seru.* Not so, sir; I haue found the authors
of it.

See where they sit, and in their bloody fistes,
The fatall instruments of death and sinne. 101

Lee Iust iudgement of that power, whose
gracious eie,

Loathing the sight of such a hainous fact,
Dazeled their senses with benumbing sleepe,
Till their vnhalloved treachery were knowne!
Awake, ye monsters; murderers, awake; 106
Tremble for horror; blush, you cannot chuse,
Beholding this inhumane deed of yours.

Old. What meane you, sir, to trouble weary
soules,

And interrupt vs of our quiet sleepe? 110

Lee Oh diuellish! can you boast vnto your
selues

Of quiet sleepe, hauing within your hearts
The guilt of murder waking, that with cries
Deafes the lowd thunder, and sollicites heauen
With more than Mandrakes shreekes for your
offence? 115

Lady Old. What murder? you vpbraide vs
wrongfully.

Lee Can you deny the fact? see you not
heere

The body of my sonne by you mis-done?

78 *M* adds *S. D.* Exit a servant.—Re-enter Servant
bearing a dead body 94 *om.* *Q 2, etc.* gaue *pr. ed.*:
gate *Q 1* 105 were] was *Q 2, etc.*

Looke on his wounds, looke on his purple hew:
Do we not finde you where the deede was done?
Were not your kniues fast closed in your hands?
Is not this cloth an argument beside, 122
Thus staine and spotted with his innocent
blood?

These speaking characters, were nothing else
To pleade against ye, would conuict you both.
Bring them away, bereauers of my ioy. 126
At Hartford, where the Sises now are kept,
Their liues shall answer for my sonnes lost
life.

Old-castle As we are innocent, so may we
speede.

Lee As I am wrongd, so may the law pro-
ceede. [exeunt.]

(SCENE IX. *St. Albans.*)

*Enter bishop of Rochester, constable of S.
Albans, with sir Iohn of Wrotham, Doll
his wench, and the Irishman in Harpooles
apparell.*

Bishop What intricate confusion haue we
heere?

Not two houres since we apprehended one,
In habite Irish, but in speech not so:
And now you bring another, that in speech
Is altogether Irish, but in habite 5
Seemes to be English: yea and more than so,
The seruant of that heretike Lord Cobham.

Irishman Faint, me be no seruant of the
lord Cobhams,
Me be Mack Chane of Vlster.

Bishop Otherwise calld Harpoole of Kent;
go to, sir, 10

You cannot blinde vs with your broken Irish.
sir Iohn Trust me, my Lord Bishop, whether
Irish,

Or English, Harpoole or not Harpoole, that
I leaue to be decided by the triall:

But sure I am this man by face and speech 15
Is he that murdered yong sir Richard Lee—
I met him presently vpon the fact—

And that he slew his maister for that gold;
Those iewells, and that chaine I tooke from
him.

Bishop Well, our affaires doe call vs backe
to London, 20

So that we cannot prosecute the cause,

124 were] were there *Q 2, etc.* 125 against you
M 126 *om.* *Q 2, etc.* 127 To Hartford with
them, where *Q 2, etc.* Scene IX. *etc.* Scene X. *etc.* *M*
4-6 Two times *Q 2, Ff. etc.* after Irish 5 altogether
om. *Q 2, etc.* 6 Seemes to be *om.* *Q 2, etc.* 8 be
me *Q 2* 12 my *om.* *Q 2, etc.* Lord] said *F 2, R.*
Pop. 12-14 Two times *Q 2, etc.* *du. after English*
14 be decided by *om.* *Q 2, etc.* 20 faires *Q 2*

As we desire to do; therefore we leaue
The charge with you, to see they be conuaid
To Hartford Sise: both this counterfaite
And you, sir Iohn of Wrotham, and your
wench, 25

For you are culpable as well as they,
Though not for murder, yet for felony.
But since you are the meanes to bring to light
This gracelesse murder, you shall beare with
you

Our letters to the Iudges of the bench, 30
To be your friendes in what they lawfull may.
sir Iohn I thanke your Lordship.

Bish. So, away with them. [exeunt.]

(SCENE X. Hertford. A Hall of Justice.)

Enter Gaoler and his man, bringing forth
Old castle.

Gaoler Bring forth the prisoners, see the
court preparede;
The Iustices are comming to the bench.
So, let him stand; away, and fetch the rest. [exeunt.]

Old. Oh, giue me patience to indure this
scourge,
Thou that art fountaine of that vertuous
streame, 5
And though contempt, false witnes, and
reproch
Hang on these yron gyues, to presse my life
As low as earth, yet strengthen me with faith,
That I may mount in spirite aboue the cloudes.

Enter Gaoler, bringing in Lady Old-castle
and Harpoole.

Here comes my lady: sorow, tis for her 10
Thy wound is greuous; else I scoffe at thee.
What, and poore Harpoole! art thou ith bryars
too?

Harp. Ifaith, my Lord, I am in, get out how
I can.

Lady Say, gentle Lord, for now we are
alone, 14

And may conferre, shall we confesse in briefe,
Of whence, and what we are, and so preuent
The accusation is commende against vs?

Old. What will that helpe vs? being knowne,
sweete loue,

We shall for heresie be put to death,
For so they tearme the religion we professe. 20
No, if it be ordained we must die,
And at this instant, this our comfort be,
That of the guilt imposde, our soules are free.

24 'sives M 29 we shall Q 2: ye shall Ff 33
om. Q 2, etc. Scene X. etc.] Scene XI. etc. M 5 of
this M 21-2 if . . instant] if we dye let Q 2, etc.

Harp. Yea, yea, my lord, Harpcole is so
resolude.

I wreake of death the lesse, in that I die 25
Not by the sentence of that enuious priest
The Bishop of Rochester: oh, were it he,
Or by his meanes that I should suffer here,
It would be double torment to my soule.

Lady Well, be it then according as heauen
please. 30

Enter lord Iudge, two Iustices, Maior of Saint
Albons, lord Powesse and his lady, and
old sir Richard Lee: the Iudge and Iustices
take their places.

Iudge Now, M(aister) Maior, what gentle-
man is that,

You bring with you before vs and the bench?
Maior The Lord Powes, if it like your
honor,

And this his Lady, traueilling toward Wales,
Who, for they lodge last night within my
house, 35

And my Lord Bishop did lay search for such,
Were very willing to come on with me,
Lest for their sakes suspection me might wrong.

Iudge We crie your honor mercy, good my
Lord,

Wilt please ye take your place. Madame, your
ladyship 40

May here or where you will repose your selfe,
Vntill this businesse now in hand be past.

Lady Po. I will withdraw into some other
roome,

So that your Lordship and the rest be please.

Iudge With all our hearts: attend the Lady
there. 45

Lord Po. Wife, I haue eyde yond prisoners
all this while,

And my conceit doth tel me, tis our friend,
The noble Cobham, and his vertuous Lady.

Lady Po. I thinke no lesse: are they sus-
pected, trow ye,

For doing of this murder? 50

Lord Po. What it meanes

I cannot tell, but we shall know anon.

Meane space as you passe by them, ask the
question,

But do it secretly, you be not seene,
And make some signe that I may know your
mind. 55

Lady Po. My Lord Cobham? madam?

[as she passeth ouer the stage by them.]

24 I, I my Lord Q 2, etc. 27-9 om. Q 2, etc. 32
and] to Q 2, etc. 33 if] an if M 36 search] waite
Q 2, etc. 38 me pr. ed.: we Qq, etc. 40 ye] you
Q 2, etc. 46 yon Q 2, etc. 49 trow ye om. Q 2, etc.
50 doing of om. Q 2, etc. 53 space] time Q 2, etc.
54 that you M

Old. No Cobham now, nor madam, as you loue vs,
But Iohn of Lancashire, and Ione his wife.

Lady Po. Oh tel, what is it that our loue can do,

To pleasure you? for we are bound to you. 60

Oldca. Nothing but this, that you conceale our names;

So, gentle lady, passe for being spied.

Lady Po. My heart I leaue, to beare part of your grieffe. [exit.]

Iudge Call the prisoners to the barre. Sir Richard Lee,

What euidence can you bring against these people, 65

To proue them guiltie of the murder done?

Lee. This bloody towell and these naked kniues,

Beside we found them sitting by the place, Where the dead body lay, within a bush.

Iudge What answer you why law should not proceed, 70

According to this euidence giuen in,

To taxe ye with the penalty of death?

Old. That we are free from murders very thought,

And know not how the gentleman was slaine.

1 *Iust.* How came this linnen cloth so bloody then? 75

Lady Cob. My husband hot with traueilling, my lord,

His nose gusht out a bleeding, that was it.

2 *Iust.* But wherefore were your sharpe edge kniues vnsheathde?

Lady Cob. To cut such simple victuall as we had.

Iudge Say we admit this answer to those articles, 80

What made ye in so priuate a darke nooke,

So far remote from any common path,

As was the thicke where the dead corpes was throwne?

Old. Iournyng, my lord, from London from the terme,

Downe into Lancashire where we do dwell, 85

And what with age and trauell being faint,

We gladly sought a place where we might rest,

Free from resort of other passengers,

And so we strayed into that secret corner.

Iudge These are but ambages to driue of time, 90

And linger Iustice from her purpose end.

But who are these?

72 ye] you *M* 75 boudy *Q 1* 78 wherefore were] how came *Q 2*, etc. 81 ye] you *Q 2*, etc.

Enter the Constable, bringing in the Irishman, sir Iohn of Wrotham, and Doll.

Const. Stay Iudgement, and release those innocents,

For here is hee, whose hand hath done the deed,

For which they stand indited at the barre,— This sauage villaine, this rude Irish slaue. 96

His tongue already hath confest the fact, And here is witness to confirme as much.

sir Iohn Yes, my good Lords, no sooner had he slaine

His louing master for the wealth he had, 100

But I vpon the instant met with him, And what he purchacde with the losse of blood:

With strokes I presently bereau'd him of; Some of the which is spent, the rest remaining

I willingly surrender to the hands 105

Of old sir Richard Lee, as being his. Beside, my Lord Iudge, I greet your honor

With letters from my Lord of Rochester. [deliuers a letter.]

Lee Is this the wolfe whose thirsty throate did drinke

My deare sonnes blood? art thou the snake 110

He cherisht, yet with enuious piercing sting Assaildst him mortally? foule stigmatike,

Thou venome of the country where thou liuedst,

And pestilence of this: were it not that law Stands ready to reuenge thy crueltye, 115

Traitor to God, thy master, and to me, These hands should be thy executioner.

Iudge Patience, sir Richard Lee, you shall haue iustice,

And he the guerdon of his base desert. The fact is odious; therefore, take him hence,

And being hangde vntil the wretch be dead, 121

His body after shall be hangd in chaines Neare to the place where he did act the murder.

Irish. Prethee, Lord shudge, let me haue mine own clothes, my strouces there, and let me be hangd in a with after my cuntry—the Irish—fashion. [exit.]

Iudge Go to; away with him. And now, sir Iohn,

Although by you this murther came to light, And therein you haue well deseru'd, yet vpriht

law, 130

So will not haue you be excusde and quit,

107 I do greet *M* 108 Winchester *Q 1*: corr. *Q 2* 110 the cursed snake *M* 112-14 foule . . of this *om.* *Q 2*, etc. 119 *om.* *Q 2*, etc. 130 And . . deseru'd *om.* *Q 2*, etc. 130-1 One line *Q 2*, etc. 131 So . . quit] will not hold you excusde *Q 2*, etc.

For you did rob the Irishman, by which
You stand attainted here of felony.
Beside, you haue bin lewd, and many yeares
Led a lasciuious, vnbeseeeming life. 135
sir Iohn Oh but, my Lord, he repents, sir
Iohn repents, and he will mend.

Iudge In hope thereof, together with the
fauour,
My Lord of Rochester intreats for you,
We are content you shall be proued. 140

sir Iohn I thanke your good Lordship.
Iudge These other falsly here accusde, and
brought

In perill wrongfully, we in like sort
Do set at liberty, paying their fees.

Lord Po. That office, if it please ye, I will
do, 145
For countries sake, because I know them well.
They are my neighbours, therefore of my
cost

Their charges shall be paide.
Lee. And for amends, 149
Touching the wrong vnwittingly I haue done,
There are a few crownes more for them to
drinke. [giues them a purse.

133 attained *Q 1* 136 he repents *om. Q 2, etc.*
139 Winchester *Q 1* 140 contented that you *M*
141 good *om. R* 142-4 Two lines *Q 2, Ff, etc. after*
brought: *wrongly rearranged in three lines M* 144
paying . . fees *om. Q 2, etc.* 145-8 *om. Q 2, etc.*
151 There . . drinke] I giue these few Crownes *Q 2, etc.*

Iudge. Your kindnes merites praise, sir
Richard Lee:
So let vs hence.

[*exeunt all but Lord Powesse and Oldcastle.*
Lord Po. But Powesse still must stay.

There yet remains a part of that true loue 155
He owes his noble friend vnsatisfide,
And vnperformd, which first of all doth bind me
To gratulate your lordships safe deliury,
And then intreat, that since vnlook for thus
We here are met, your honor would vouchsafe,
To ride with me to Wales, where to my power,
(Though not to quittance those great benefites,
I haue receiud of you) yet both my house,
My purse, my seruants, and what else I haue,
Are all at your command. Deny me not; 165
I know the Bishops hate pursues ye so,
As theres no safety in abiding here.

Old. Tis true, my Lord, and God forgiue
him for it.

Lord Po. Then, let vs hence: you shall be
straight provided

Of lusty geldings, and once entred Wales, 170
Well may the Bishop hunt, but, spight his
face,

He neuer more shall haue the game in chace.
[*exeunt.*

FINIS.

161 to my *M:* though my *Qq, Ff:* through my
conj. Percy 162 May not acquittance *conj. M*
166 ye] you *M*

THE
True Chronicle Hi-
storie of the whole life and death
of *Thomas Lord Cromwell.*

As it hath beene sundrie times pub-
likely Acted by the Right Hono-
rable the Lord Chamberlaine
his Seruants.

Written by W. S.



Imprinted at London for *William Iones*, and are
to be solde at his house neere Holburne con-
duit, at the signe of the Gunne.

1602.

- Q* 1 = Quarto of 1602
Q 2 = „ „ 1613
F 1 = the (third) Folio Shakespeare, 1664
F 2 = „ (fourth) „ „ 1685
R = Rowe's Shakespeare, 1709
Pope = supplementary volume to Pope's Shakespeare, 1728
M = Malone, 1780
St. = Steevens, *ibid.*
Th. = Theobald, *ibid.*
S = Simms, 1848
T = Tyrrell, 1851
Haz. = Hazlitt, 1852
Molt. = Moltke, 1869
pr. ed. = present editor

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF THE LORD CROMWELL

(THE ACTORS NAMES.

Old Cromwell, a Black-smith of Putney.
Yong Thomas Cromwell his son.
Hodge, Will and Tom, old Cromwell's scr-
vants.
Earle of Bedford and his Host.
Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk.
Sir Christopher Hales.
Cardinal Wolsey.
Sir Thomas Moor.
Gardiner Bishop of Winchester.
Sir Ralph Sadler.
M. Bouser a Merchant.
Banister, a broken Merchant and his wife.

Bagot, a cruel covetous Broker.
Friskiball a Florentine Merchant.
The Governours of the English house at
Antwerp.
States and Officers of Bononia.
Good-man Seely and his wife Joan.
Chorus.
A Post.
Messengers.
Ushers and servants.
Lieutenant of the Tower.
Two Citizens.
*Two Merchants.)*¹

(ACT I. SCENE I. *Putney. The entrance of
a smith's shop.*)

*Enter three Smithes, Hodge and two other, old
Cromwells men.*

Hodge. Come, masters, I thinke it be past
fue a clock; is it not time we were at worke:
my old Master heele be stirring anon. 3

1. I cannot tell whether my old master will
be stirring or no: but I am sure I can hardly
take my afternoones nap, for my young Maister
Thomas, he keepes such a quile in his studie,
with the Sunne, and the Moone, and the seauen
starres, that I do verily thinke heele read out
his wits. 10

Hodge. He skill of the starres! theres good-
man *Car of Fulhum*, he that carryed vs to the
strong Ale, where goodie *Trundell* had her
maide got with childe: O he knowes the
Starres. Heele tickle you *Charles Waine* in
nine degrees. That same man will tell you
goodie *Trundell* when her Ale shall miscarie,
onely by the starres. 18

2. I, thats a great vertue; indeed I thinke
Thomas has no body in comparison to him.

1. Well, maisters, come, shall we to our
hammers?

Hodge. I, content; first lets take our morn-
ings draught, and then to worke roundly. 24

2. I, agreed; goe in, *Hodge.* [*Exit omnes.*

(SCENE II. *The same.*)

Enter young Cromwell.

Crom. Good morrow, morne, I doe salute
thy brightnesse.

The night seemes tedious to my troubled soule,
Whose black obscuritie binds in my minde
A thousand sundry cogitations:

And now *Aurora*, with a liuely dye, 5
Addes comfort to my spirit that mountes on
high—

Too high indeede, my state being so meane.
My study, like a minerall of golde,
Makes my hart proude, wherein my hopes
inrowld:

My bookes is all the wealth I do possesse, 10
[*Here within they must beate with their
hammers.*

And vnto them I haue ingaged my hart.
O learning, how deuine thou seemes to me:
Within whose armes is all felicity.

Peace with your hammers! leaue your knock-
ing there:

You doe disturbe my study and my rest. 15
Leaue off, I say, you madde me with the noyse.

Enter Hodge and the two Men.

Hodge. Why, how now, Maister *Thomas*,
how now? Will you not let vs worke for you?

Crom. You fret my hart, with making of
this noyse. 20

Hod. How, fret your hart? I, but *Thomas*,

¹ Add. F1 Act I. etc. add. M 1-3 Verse Qq, F1, div.
after clock, worke 4 l. 1. Will M: so l. 21 7-25 Verse
Qq 16 you om. Q 2, etc. 19, 25 2.] Tom M

Scene II. etc. add. M 3 binds] breeds S 6 on
om. S 17-27 Verse Qq, Ff: corr. M

youle fret your fathers purse if you let vs from working.

2. I, this tis for him to make him a gentleman. Shal we leaue worke for your musing? thats well, I faith; But here comes my olde maister now. 27

Enter olde Cromwell.

Old. Cro. You idle knaues, what, are you loytring now?

No hammers walking and my worke to do! What, not a heate among your worke to day?

Hod. Marrie, sir, your sonne *Thomas* will not let vs worke at all. 32

Old. Cro. Why, knaue, I say, haue I thus carkde & car'd

And all to keepe thee like a gentleman;
And dost thou let my seruants at their worke,
Thatsweat for thee, knaue, labour thus for thee?

Cro. Father, their hammers doe offend my studie. 37

Old. Cro. Out of my doores, knaue, if thou likest it not.

I crie you mercie! is your eares so fine?
I tell thee, knaue, these get when I doe sleepe;
I will not haue my Anuill stand for thee. 41

Crom. Theres monie, father, I will pay your men. [*Hethrowes money among them.*]

Old. Cro. Haue I thus brought thee vp vnto my cost,

In hope that one day thou wouldst releuee my age,

And art thou now so lauish of thy coine, 45
To scatter it among these idle knaues.

Cro. Father, be patient, and content your selfe.

The time will come I shall hold golde as trash:
And here I speake with a presaging soule,
To build a pallace where now this cottage standes, 50

As fine as is King *Henries* house at Sheene.

Old. Cro. You build a house! you knaue, youle be a begger.

Now, afore God, all is but cast away,
That is bestowed vpon this thriftlesse lad.
Well, had I bound him to some honest trade,
This had not beene, but it was his mothers doing, 56

To send him to the Vniuersitie.
How? build a house where now this cottage standes,

As faire as that at Sheene!—(*aside*) He shall not here me.

A good boy Tom! I con thee thanke Tom! 60

24 *Profr* Tom *M* 29 working *car* *M*: talking
com *M* 45 thouj thee *Q* 1 59 I'll build *Ho*:
now *com* *M*

Well said Tom! gramarcies Tom!—

Into your worke, knaues; hence, you sausie boy. [*Exit all but young Cromwell.*]

Cro. Why should my birth keepe downe my mounting spirit?

Are not all creatures subiect vnto time:
To time, who doth abuse the world, 65
And filles it full of hodge-podge bastardie?
Theres legions now of beggars on the earth,
That their original did spring from Kings:
And manie Monarkes now whose fathers were
The riffe-raffe of their age: for Time and Fortune 70

Weares out a noble traine to beggerie,
And from the dunghill minions doe aduance
To state and marke in this admiring world.
This is but course, which in the name of Fate
Is seene as often as it whirles about: 75
The Riuer *Thames*, that by our doore doth passe,

His first beginning is but small and shallow:
Yet keeping on his course, growes to a sea.
And likewise *Wolsey*, the wonder of our age,
His birth as meane as mine, a Butchers sonne,
Now who within this land a greater man? 81
Then, *Cromwell*, cheere thee vp, and tell thy soule,

That thou maist liue to flourish and controule.

Enter olde Cromwell.

Old. Crom. Tom *Cromwell*! what, Tom, I say! 85

Crom. Do you call, sir.

Old. Crom. Here is maister *Bowser* come to know if you haue dispatched his petition for the Lords of the counsell or no.

Crom. Father, I haue; please you to call him in. 91

Old. Crom. Thats well said, Tom; a good lad, Tom.

Enter Maister Bowser.

Bow. Now, Maister *Cromwell*, haue you dispatched this petition? 95

Crom. I haue, sir; here it is: please you peruse it.

Bow. It shall not need; weele read it as we go by water:

And, Maister *Cromwell*, I haue made a motion
May do you good, and if you like of it. 100
Our Secretarie at *Antwarpe*, sir, is dead,
And the Marchants there hath sent to me,
For to prouide a man fit for the place:
Now I do know none fitter then your selfe,
If with your liking it stand, maister *Cromwell*.

65 the cheated world *M* 100 an if *M* 105 If
it stand with your liking *S*

Crom. With all my hart, sir, and I much
am bound, 106
In loue and dutie for your kindnesse showne.
Old Cro. Body of me, *Tom*, make hast,
least some body get betweene thee and home,
Tom. I thanke you, good maister *Bowser*, I
thanke you for my boy; I thanke you alwayes,
I thanke you most hartely, sir. Hoe, a cup of
Beere there for maister *Bowser*. 113
Bow. It shall not need, sir. Maister *Crom-*
well, will you go?
Crom. I will attend you, sir. 116
Old Crom. Farewell, *Tom*; God blesse thee,
Tom; God speed thee, good *Tom*.

[*Exit omnes.*]

(SCENE III. *London. A street before Fresco-*
bald's house.)

Enter Bagot, a Broker, solus.

Bag. I hope this day is fatall vnto some,
And by their losse must *Bagot* seeke to gaine.
This is the lodging of maister *Fryskiball*,
A liberrall Marchant, and a *Florentine*,
To whom *Banister* owes a thousand pound, 5
A Marchant Banckrout, whose Father was my
maister.

What do I care for pitie or regarde?
He once was wealthy, but he now is falne,
And this morning haue I got him arested,
At the sute of maister *Friskiball*, 10
And by this meanes shall I be sure of coyne,
For dooing this same good to him vnknowne:
And in good time, see where the marchant
comes.

Enter Fryskiball.

Bag. Go(o)d morrow to kind maister
Friskiball.

Fri. Go(o)d morrow to your selfe, good
maister *Bagot*, 15
And whats the newes, you are so early stirring:
It is for gaine, I make no doubt of that.

Bag. It is for the loue, sir, that I beare to
you.

When did you see your debtor *Banister*?

Fri. I promise you, I haue not seene the
man 20

This two moneths day; his pouertie is such,
As I do thinke he shames to see his friends.

Bag. Why, then, assure your selfe to see
him straight,

For at your sute I haue arrested him,
And here they will be with him presently. 25

108-13 Verse (*Q. Fr.* 109 home] honour *S* Scene
III. *etc. add. M* 3 lodging] lodge *S* 9 I this
morning haue *M* 10 At suit of this same *M*

Fry. Arrest him at my sute? you were to
blame.

I know the mans misfortunes to be such,
As hees not able for to pay the debt,
And were it knowne to some he were vndone.

Bag. This is your pittifull hart to thinke it
so, 30

But you are much deceaued in *Banister*.
Why such as he will breake for fashion sake,
And vnto those they owe a thousand pound,
Pay scarce a hundred. O, sir, beware of him.
The man is lowly giuen to Dyce and Drabs,
Spends all he hath in harlots companies; 36
It is no mercy for to pitie him.

I speake the truth of him, for nothing els,
But for the kindnesse that I beare to you.

Fry. If it be so, he hath deceiued me much,
And to deale strictly with such a one as he—
Better seuerer then too much lenitie. 42

But here is Maister *Banister* himselfe,
And with him, as I take, the officers.

Enter Banister, his wife, and two officers.

Ban. O maister *Friskiball*, you haue vndone
me. 45

My state was well nigh ouerthrowne before,
Now altogether downe-cast by your meanes.

Mist. Ba. O maister *Friskiball*, pity my
husbands case.

He is a man hath liued as well as any,
Till enuious fortune and the rauinous sea 50
Did rob, disrobe, and spoile vs of our owne.

Fri. Mistris *Banister*, I enuie not your
husband,

Nor willingly would I haue vsed him thus,
But that I here he is so lowly giuen, 54
Haunts wicked company, and hath enough
To pay his debts, yet will not be knowne thereof.

Ban. This is that damned Broker, that
same *Bagot*,

Whom I haue often from my Trencher fed.
Ingratefull Villaine for to vse me thus!

Bag. What I haue said to him is naught
but truth. 60

Mi. Ban. What thou hast said springs
from an enuious hart.

A Canniball that doth eate men aliue!

But here vpon my knee, beleue me, sir,
And what I speake, so helpe me God, is true:
We scarce haue meate to feed our little babes.
Most of our Plate is in that Brokers hand, 66
Which, had we mony to dephray our debt,
O thinke, we would not bide that penurie.

42 *M* suggests that a preceding line has been lost.
Better seuerer] Is better sure conj. *SL.* 44 as I
take't *Fr.* *etc.* 56 be knowne] own *S* 59
Ungratetul *M* 62 A] O *S* 67 debts *Q. 2, etc.*

Be mercifull, kinde maister *Friskiball*.
 My husband, children, and my selfe will eate
 But one meale a day, the other will 71
 We keepe and sell
 As part to pay the debt we owe to you:
 If euer teares did pierce a tender minde,
 Be pittifull, let me some fauour finde. 75

Bag. Be not you so mad, sir, to beleue hir teares.

Fri. Go to, I see thou art an enuious man.
 Good misteris *Banister*, kneele not to me;
 I pray rise vp, you shall haue your desire. 79
 Holde; officers, be gone, theres for your paines.—

You know you owe to me a thousand pound:
 Here, take my hand; if eare God make you able,

And place you in your former state againe,
 Pay me: but if still your fortune frowne,
 Vpon my faith Ile neuer aske you crowne: 85
 I neuer yet did wrong to men in thrall,
 For God doth know what to my selfe may fall.

Ban. This vnexpected fauour, vnderferued,
 Doth make my hart bleed inwardly with ioy.
 Nere may ought prosper with me is my owne,
 If I forget this kindnesse you haue showne.

Mi. Ba. My children in their prayers, both night and day, 92

For your good fortune and successe shall pray.

Fri. I thanke you both; I pray, goe dine with me.

Within these three dayes, if God giue me leaue,
 I will to *Florence*, to my natieue home. 96

Bagot, holde; theres a Portague to drinke,
 Although you ill deserued it by your merit.
 Giue not such cruell scope vnto your hart;
 Be sure the ill you do will be requited. 100

Remember what I say, *Bagot*; farewell.
 Come, Maister *Banister*; you shall with me.
 My fare is but simple, but welcome hartily.

[*Exit all but Bagot.*]

Bag. A plague goe with you; would you had eate your last! 104

Is this the thanks I haue for all my paines?
 Confusion light vpon you all for me.

Where he had want to giue a score of crownes,
 Doth he now foyst me with a Portague?

Well, I will be reuenged vpon this *Banister*.
 Ile to his creditors, buie all the debts he owes,
 As seeming that I do it for good will. 111
 I am sure to haue them at an easie rate,

And when tis done, in christendome he staies not,

But ile make his hart to ake with sorrow:
 And if that *Banister* become my debter, 115
 By heauen and earth ile make his plague the greater. [*Exit Bagot.*]

(ACT II.)

Enter Chorus.

Cho. Now, gentlemen, imagine that young *Cromwell* (is)

In *Antwarpe* Ledger for the English Marchantes:

And *Banister*, to shunne this *Bagots* hate,
 Hearing that he hath got some of his debts,
 Is fled to *Antwarpe*, with his wife and children;
 Which *Bagot* hearing is gone after them: 6
 And thether sendes his billes of debt before,
 To be reuenged on wretched *Banister*.
 What doth fall out, with patience sit and see,
 A iust requitall of false trecherie. [*Exit.*]

(SCENE I. *Antwerp*.)

Cromwell in his study with bagges of money before him casting of account.

Cro. Thus farre my reckoning doth go straight & euen,

But, *Cromwell*, this same ployding fits not thee:
 Thy minde is altogether set on trauell,
 And not to liue thus cloystered like a Nunne.
 It is not this same trash that I regard, 5
 Experience is the iewell of my hart.

Enter a Post.

Post. I praie, sir, are you readie to dispatch me?

Cro. Yes; heres those summes of monie you must carie;

You goe so farre as Frankford, do you not?

Post. I doe, sir. 10

Cro. Well, prethie make all the hast thou canst,

For there be certaine English gentlemen Are bound for Venice, and may hapilie want,
 And if that you should linger by the way:

But in hope that youle make good speed, 15
 Theres two Angels to buie you spurres and wandes.

Po. I thank you, sir; this will ad winges indeede. [*Exit Post.*]

Cro. Golde is of power would make an Eagles speed.

71-2 One line *Qq*, *Ff* 71-3 Two lines, *div.* after keep
M, etc. 73 to you] you *M* 73-5 om. *Ff*, *R*, *Pope*
 76 om. *Ff*, etc. 84 but yet if *M* 85 you] a *M*
 90 is] as *S* 97 Hold, *Bagot R*, etc. 97, 108 Portague] cardecue *conj.* *M* 110 debt *Q* 1

Act II. *add. M* 1 is *add. Q* 2 Scene I. *etc.*
M 2 plodding *Q* 2, etc. 11 make then all *M*
 15 in the hope *M* *S. D. add. M* 18 would] to
Q 2, etc.

Enter Mistris Banister.

What gentlewoman is this that greeues so much?

It seemes she doth adresse her selfe to me. 20

Mi. Ba. God saue you, sir; praie, is your name maister Cromwell?

Cro. My name is *Thomas Cromwell*, gentlewoman.

Mi. Ba. Know you not one *Bagot*, sir, thats come to *Antwarpe*?

Cro. No, trust me, I neuer saw the man, But here are billes of debt I haue receiued, 25 Against one *Banister*, a Marchant fallen into decaie.

Mi. Ba. Into decaie, indeede, long of that wretch.

I am the wife to wofull *Banister*:

And by that bloudie villaine am persude From London here to *Antwarpe*. 30

My husband he is in the gouernours handes, And God of heauen knowes how heele deale with him.

Now, sir, your hart is framed of milder temper; Be mercifull to a distressed soule, And God no doubt will trebell blesse your gaine. 35

Cro. Good mistris *Banister*, what I can, I will,

In any thing that lies within my power.

Mi. Ba. O speake to *Bagot*, that same wicked wretch,

An Angells voyce may mooue a damned diuell.

Cro. Why, is he come to *Antwarpe*, as you here? 40

Mi. Ba. I hard he landed some two houres since.

Cro. Well, mistris *Banister*, assure your selfe.

Ile speake to *Bagot* in your owne behalfe, And winne him to all the pittie that I can. 44 Meane time, to comfort you in your distresse, Receiue these Angells to releuee your neede, And be assured that what I can effect To do you good, no way I will neglect.

Mi. Ba. That mighty God, that knowes each mortalles hart,

Keepe you from trouble, sorrow, grieve, and smart. 50

[*Exit Mistris Banister.*]

Crom. Thankes, courteous woman, for thy hartie praier.

25, 26 *Begin Arc*, One *M* 26 into] to *M* 31-2 *Begin* He. Of *M* 30-2 *Antwerp*, where my husband Lies in the governor's hands; the God of Heaven He only knows how he will etc. *S.* followed by *Molt.* with change and God 43 I will to *Bagot* speak *S* owne om. *S.* *Molt.*

It greeues my soule to see her miserie,
But we that liue vnder the worke of fate,
Maie hope the best, yet knowes not to what state
Our starres and destinies hath vs assignde. 55
Fickle is fortune and her face is blinde. (*Exit.*)

(SCENE II. *A street in Antwerp.*)

Enter Bagot solus.

Ba. So all goes well; it is as I would haue it.
Banister he is with the *Gouernour*
And shortlie shall haue giuiues vpon his heeles.
It glads my hart to thinke vpon the slaue;
I hope to haue his bodie rot in prison, 5
And after here his wife to hang her selfe,
And all his children die for want of foode.
The Iewels that I haue brought to *Antwarpe*
Are recound to be worth fife thousand pound,
Which scarcelie stodee me in three hundredth 10 pound.

I bought them at an easie kinde of rate;
I care not which way they came by them
That sould them me, it comes not neare my hart:
And least they should be stolne—as sure they are—

I thought it meete to sell them here in *Antwarpe*, 15
And so haue left them in the *Gouernours* hand,
Who offers me within two hundredth pound
Of all my price. But now no more of that:
I must go see and if my billes be safe,
The which I sent to maister *Cromwell*, 20
That if the winde should keepe me on the sea,
He might arrest him here before I came:

(*Enter Cromwell.*)

And in good time, see where he is. God saue you sir.

Cro. And you: pray pardon me, I know you not.

Bag. It may be so, sir, but my name is *Bagot*, 25
The man that sent to you the billes of debt.

Cro. O, the man that persues *Banister*.
Here are the billes of debt you sent to me:
As for the man, you know best where he is.
It is reported you haue a flintie hart, 30
A minde that will not stoope to anie pittie,
An eye that knowes not how to shed a teare,
A hand thats alwaies open for reward;
But, maister *Bagot*, would you be ruled by me,
You should turne all these to the contrarie. 35
Your hart should still haue feeling of remorse,

54 know *F2*, etc. 55 have *F2*, etc. *S. D.* *Exit*
add. *R* Scene II. etc. add. *M* 8 that om. *Q2*,
etc. have with me brought *M* 12 not much which
M 20 sent before to *M* *S. D.* add. *R* 27 O,
you're the *M*

Your minde according to your state be liberrall
To those that stand in neede and in distresse;
Your hand to helpe them that do stand in want,
Rather then with your poyse to holde them
downe; 40

For euerie ill turneshow your selfe more kinde:
Thus should I doe; pardon, I speake my minde.

Bag. I, sir, you speake to here what I would
say,

But you must liue, I know, as well as I:
I know this place to be extortion, 45

And tis not for a man to keepe him,
But he must lie, cog with his dearest friend,
And as for pittie, scorne it, hate all conscience.
But yet I doe commend your wit in this,
To make a show of what I hope you are not;
But I commend you and tis well done: 51
This is the onelie way to bring your gaine.

Cro. My gaine! I had rather chaine me to
an ore,

And like a slaue there toile out all my life,
Before ide liue so base a slaue as thou: 55
I, like an hipocrite, to make a show
Of seeming vertue and a diuell within!
No, *Bagot*, would thy conscience were as
cleare:

Poore *Banister* nere had beene troubled here.

Bag. Nay, good maister *Cromwell*; be not
angrie, sir. 60

I know full well you are no such man;
But if your conscience were as white as Snow,
It will be thought that you are other wise.

Cro. Will it be thought that I am other wise?
Let them that thinke so know they are
deceiu'de. 65

Shall *Cromwell* liue to haue his faith miscon-
stered?

Antwarpe, for all the wealth within thy Towne,
I will not stay here not two houres longer.

As good lucke serues, my accountes are all
made euen;

Therefore ile straight vnto the treasurer. 70

Bagot, I know youle to the gouernour;
Commend me to him, say I am bound to tra-
uaile,

To see the fruitfull partes of Italie,
And as you euer bore a Christian minde,
Let *Banister* some fauour of you finde. 75

Bag. For your sake, sir, ile helpe him all
I can—

To starue his hart out eare he gets a groate.

(*Aside.*)

So, maister *Cromwell*, doe I take my leaue,
For I must straight vnto the gouernour.

[*Exit Bagot.*]

Cro. Farewell, sir; pray you remember what
I said.— 80

No, *Cromwell*, no; thy hart was nere so bace,
To liue by falshoode or by brokerie!
But 't falles out well, I little it repent;
Hereafter, time in trauell shalbe spent. 84

Enter Hodge, his fathers man.

Hod. Your sonne *Thomas*, quoth you: I
haue beene *Thomas*! I had thought it had
beene no such matter to a gone by water: for
at Putnaie ile go you to Parish-garden for two
pence, sitte as still as may be, without any
wagging or ioulting in my guttes, in a little
boate too: heere wee were scarce foure mile
in the great greene water, but I—thinking to
goe to my afternoones vncines, as twas my
manner at home—but I felt a kinde of rising
in my guttes. At last one a the Sailers spying
of me, be a good cheere, sayes hee, set downe
thy victualles, and vppe with it, thou hast
nothing but an Eele in thy belly. Well toote
went I, to my victualles went the Sailers, and
thinking me to bee a man of better experience
then any in the shippe, asked mee what *Woode*
the shippe was made of: they all swore I told
them as right as if I had beene acquainted with
the Carpenter that made it. At last wee grewe
neere lande, and I grewe villanous hungrie,
went to my bagge: the diuell a bitte there was.
The Sailers had tickled mee; yet I cannot
blame them: it was a parte of kindnesse, for
I in kindnesse toulde them what *Woode* the
shippe was made of, and they in kindnesse
eate vp my victualles, as indeede one good
turne asketh another. Well, would I could
finde my maister *Thomas* in this Dutch Towne;
he might put some English Beare into my
bellie. 115

Cro. What, *Hodge*, my fathers man? by my
hand, welcome!
How doth my father? whats the newes at
home? 117

Hod. Maister *Thomas*, O God, maister
Thomas, your hand, gloue and all. This is to
giue you to vnderstanding that your father is
in health, and *Alice Downing* here hath sent
you a Nutmeg, & *Besse Makewater* a race of
Ginger; my fellow *Will & Tom* hath between

39 stand] sink S 45 extortious conj. M: ex-
tortionous Moll. 46 keep safe here Q 2, etc. 52
your] you T 53 My om. S 58 would] if Q 2, etc.
60 good om. S 61 Well that you Q 2, etc. 68 here
hull two Q 2, etc. S. D. Aside add. M

80 you om. S 1] I've S 83 But falles Q 1 91
scarce some four ff miles R, etc. 93 vnchines]
Lunchines R: nunchcon M 94 but I om. M 100
me Q 2, etc.: I Q 1 106 and went M 112 would
I. could I Qq. ff: om. M 123 Fellows R

them sent you a dozen of pointes, & good man
Tolle of the Goate a paire of mittons; my selfe
came in person: and this is all the newes. 126

Cro. Gramarsie, good *Hodge*, and thou art
welcome to me,

But in as ill a time thou comest as may be:
For I am traueling into Italie.

What saist thou, *Hodge*? wilt thou beare me
companie? 130

Hodge. Will I beare thee companie, *Tom*?
What tell'st me of Italie? were it to the furthest
part of Flaunders, I would goe with thee, *Tom*.
I am thine in all weale and woe, thy owne to
commaund. What, *Tom*! I haue passed the
rigorous waues of *Neptunes* blasties; I tell you,
Thomas, I haue beene in the danger of the
floods; and when I haue seene *Boreas* beginne
to plaie the Ruffin with vs, then would I downe
of my knees and call vpon *Vulcan*. 140

Cro. And why vpon him?

Hod. Because, as this same fellow *Neptune*
is God of the Seas, so *Vulcan* is Lord ouer the
Smithies, and therefore, I, being a Smith,
thought his Godhead would haue some care
yet of me. 146

Crom. A good conceit, but tell (me), hast
thou dined yet?

Hod. *Thomas*, to speake the truth, not a
bit yet I.

Crom. Come, go with me; thou shalt haue
cheere good store. 149

And farewell, *Antwarpe*, if I come no more.

Hodg. I follow thee, sweet *Tom*, I follow
thee. [Exit omnes.]

(SCENE III. Another street in the same.)

Enter the Governour of the English house,
Bagot, *Banister*, his wife, and two officers.

Gouer. Is *Cromwell* gone then, say you,
maister *Bagot*?

What dislike, I pray? what was the cause?

Bag. To tell you true, a wilde braine of his
owne;

Such youth as they cannot see when they are
well:

He is all bent to trauaile, thats his reason, 5
And doth not loue to eate his bread at home.

Gou. Well, good fortune with him, if the
man be gone.

We hardly shall finde such a one as he,
To fit our turnes; his dealings were so honest.
But now, sir, for your Iewels that I haue, 10

What do you say? will you take my prise?

Bag. O, sir, you offer too much vnderfoote.

Gou. Tis but two hundred pound betweene
vs, man.

Whats that in paiement of fūe thousand pound?

Bag. Two hundred pound! birladie, sir, tis
great: 15

Before I got so much, it made me sweat.

Gou. Well, Maister *Bagot*, Ile proffer you
fairelie.

You see this Marchant, maister *Banister*,

Is going now to prison at your sute.

His substance all is gone; what would you
haue? 20

Yet in regarde I knew the man of wealth—

Neuer dishonest dealing, but such mishaps
Hath falne on him, may light on me or you—

There is two hundred pound betweene vs; 24

We will deuide the same: Ile giue you one,

On that condition you will set him free:

His state is nothing, that you see your selfe,
And where naught is, the King must lose his
right.

Bag. Sir, sir, you speake out of your loue,
Tis foolish loue, sir, sure, to pittie him: 30

Therefore, content yourselfe; this is my minde:
To do him good I will not bate a penie,

Ban. This is my comfort: though thou
doost no good,

A mighty ebbe folloves a mighty flood.

Mi. Ba. O thou base wretch, whom we
haue fostered 35

Euen as a Serpent for to poyson vs,

If God did euer right a womans wrong,

To that same God I bend and bow my heart,

To let his heauy wrath fall on thy head,

By whome my hopes and ioyes are butchered.

Bag. Alas, fond woman, I praie thee, praie
thy worst; 41

The Fox fares better still when he is curst.

Enter Maister Bowser, a Marchant.

Go. Maister Bowser! your welcome, sir,
from England.

Whats the best newes? how doth all our
friendes?

Bow. They are all well and do commend
them to you; 45

Theres letters from your brother and your
sonne:

So faire you well, sir; I must take my leaue.

My hast and businesse doth require such.

137 in danger *Ff.*, etc. 140 of] a *Q 2*, etc. 147
tell me *Q 2*, etc.: tell *Q 1* Scene III., etc. *add.* *M*
2 in what dislike, I pray you *M* 4 as he can't *M*
8 such a man *Ff.*, *R*

11 say? what, will *Q 2*, etc. 24 us two *M* 29
Sir, sir, I know you *M* O Sir. . love, but know *S*
30 heauy *Q 2* 41 I prethee *Q 2*, etc. 43 your
Q 1: you're *F 2* 44 and how *M* 47 faire *Q 1*
48 such] so *Q 2*, *Ff.*, *M*: it so *S*

Go. Before you dine, sir? What, go you out of towne?

Bow. I, faith, vnlesse I here some newes in towne, 50

I must away; there is no remedie.

Gou. Maister Bowser, what is your busines? may I know it?

Bow. You may, sir, and so shall all the Cittie.

The King of late hath had his treasurie rob'd, And of the choycest iewelless that he had: 55 The value of them was some seauen thousand pound.

The fellow that did steale these iewels, he is hanged,

And did confesse that for three hundred pound He sould them to one *Bagot* dwelling in London:

Now *Bagots* fled, and, as we here, to Antwarpe, And hether am I come to seeke him out; 61

And they that first can tell me of his newes Shall haue a hundred pound for their reward.

Ba(n). How iust is God to right the innocent.

Gou. Maister Bowser, you come in happie time: 65

Here is the villaine *Bagot* that you seeke, And all those iewels haue I in my handes.

Officers, looke to him, hould him fast.

Bag. The diuell ought me a shame, and now hath paide it.

Bow. Is this that *Bagot*? fellowes, beare him hence. 70

We will not now stand for his repleie.

Lade him with Yrons; we will haue him tride In England, where his villanies are knowne.

Bag. Mischiefe, confusion, light vpon you all!

O hang me, drowne me, let me kill my selfe! Let go my armes; let me run quick to hell. 76

Bow. Away, beare him away; stop the slaues mouth. [*They carry him away.*]

Mi. Ba. Thy workes are infinite, great God of heauen.

Gou. I hard this *Bagot* was a wealthie fellow.

Bow. He was indeed, for when his goods were zeased, 80

Of Iewels, coine, and Plate within his house, Was found the value of fise thousand pound; His furniture fullie worth halfe so much, Which being all straine de for, for the King, He franklie gaue it to the *Antwarpe* marchants, 85

And they againe, out of their bountious minde, Hath to a brother of their companie,

53 *Prefix* Bow, before 54 *Qq* may so, sir *M* 56
some om. *Q* 2, etc. 57 he om. *Q* 2, etc. 68 Here,
officers *M* 69 now he hath *Ff*; *R* 71 stand here
for *M* 83 worth fully *S* 84 straine de for the
Q 2, *Ff*: distrained for the *M* 87 Have *Ff*, etc.

A man decaide by fortune of the Seas, Guen *Bagots* wealth, to set him vp againe, And keepe it for him: his name is *Banister*. 90
Gou. Maister Bowser, with this happie newes

You haue reuiued two from the gates of death: This is that *Banister*, and this his wife.

Bow. Sir, I am glad my fortune is so good, To bring such tidings as may comfort you. 95

Ban. You haue giuen life vnto a man deemed dead,

For by these newes, my life is newlie bred.

Mi. Ba. Thanks to my God, next to my Soueraigne King,

And last to you that these good hopes doth bring.

Gou. The hundred pound I must receiue as due 100

For finding *Bagot*, I freeleie giue to you.

Bow. And, Maister *Banister*, if so you please,

Ile beare you companie, when you crosse the Seas.

Ban. If it please you, sir; my companie is but meane.

Stands with your liking, Ile waite on you. 105

Gou. I am glad that all things do accorde so well:

Come, Maister Bowser, let vs in to dinner:

And, Misterisse *Banister*, be mery, woman!

Come, after sorrow now lets cheere your spirit; Knaues haue their due, and you but what you merit. [*Exit omnes.*]

(ACT III. SCENE I. *The principal bridge at Florence.*)

Enter Cromwell and Hodge in their shirtes, and without Hattes.

Hod. Call yee this seeing of fashions? Marrie, would I had staide at *Putnaie* still. O, Maister Thomas, we are spoiled, we are gone.

Crom. Content thee, man, this is but fortune. 6

Hodg. Fortune; a plague of this Fortune makes me go wetshod; the roagues would not leaue me a shooe to my feete. For my hoase, they scorned them with their heeles; but for my Dublet and Hatte, O Lord, they imbrased me, and vnslased me, and tooke away my cloathes, and so disgraced me. 13

91 Good Master *S* this most happy *M* 99
hopes doth] newes doe *Q* 2, etc. Act III. Scene I.

etc. add. *M* 1-4 Verse *Qq*, *Ff*, *div.* fashions, still
7 Fortune, it makes *Ff*, etc. 9-13 For my . . disgraced me] *Doggerel M*, *div.* hose, heels, hat, me, me, cloathes, me

Crom. Well, *Hodge*, what remedie? What shift shall we make now? 15

Hodge. Naie, I know not. For begging I am naught, for stealing worse: by my troth, I must euen fall to my olde trade, to the Hammer and the Horse heeles againe: but now the worst is; I am not acquainted with the humor of the horses in this countrie, whether they are not coultish, giuen much to kicking, or no; for when I haue one legge in my hand, if he should vp and laie tother on my chops, I were gone: there laie I, there laie *Hodge*. 25

Crom. *Hodge*, I beleue thou must worke for vs both.

Hodge. O, Maister *Thomas*, haue not I tolde you of this? haue not I manie a time and often said, *Tom*, or *Maister Thomas*, learne to make a Horse-shoe, it will be your owne another day: this was not regarded. Harke you, *Thomas*, what doe you call the fellowes that robd vs? 35

Crom. The *Bandetti*. 35

Hod. The *Bandetti*, doe you call them? I know not what they are called here, but I am sure wee call them plaine theeues in England. O *Thomas*, that we were now at Putnay, at the ale there. 40

Cro. Content thee, man; here set vp these two billes,

And let vs keepe our standing on the bridge: The fashion of this countrie is such, If any stranger be oppressed with want, To write the maner of his miserie, 45 And such as are disposed to succour him, Will doe it. What, hast thou set them vp?

Hod. I, their vp; God send some to reade them, and not onelie to reade them, but also to looke on vs; and not altogether to looke on vs, 51

[*One standes at one end, and one at tother.* But to releue vs. O colde, colde, colde.

Enter Friskiball, the Marchant, and reads the billes.

Fris. Whats here? two Englishmen rob'd by the *Bandetti*!

One of them seemes to be a gentleman. Tis pittie that his fortune was so hard, 55 To fall into the desperate handes of theeues. Ile question him of what estate he is. God saue you, sir; are you an Englishman?

Cro. I am, 'sir, a distressed Englishman.

Fri. And what are you, my friend? 60

Hod. Who? I, sir? by my troth, I do not know myself what I am now, but, sir, I was a smith, sir, a poore Farrier of Putnay. Thats my maister, sir, yonder. I was robbed for his sake, sir. 65

Fri. I see you haue beene met by the *Bandetti*,

And therefore neede not aske how you came thus.

But, *Friskiball*, why doost thou question them Of their estate and not releuee their neede?

Sir, the coine I haue about me is not much: 70 Theres sixteene Duckets for to cloath your selues,

Theres sixteene more to buie your diet with, And thers sixteene to paie for your horse hire:

Tis all the wealth, you see, my purse possesses, But if you please for to enquire me out, 75 You shall not want for ought that I can doe. My name is *Friskiball*, a *Florence Marchant*, A man that alwayes loued your nation.

Crom. This vnexpected fauour at your hands,

Which God doth know if euer I shall requite it— 80

Necessitie makes me to take your bountie, And for your gold can yeeld you naught but thanks.

Your charitie hath helpt me from dispaire; Your name shall still be in my hartie praier.

Fri. It is not worth such thanks. Come to my house; 85

Your want shall better be releu'd then thus.

Crom. I pray, excuse me; this shall well suffice

To beare my charges to *Bononia*, Whereas a noble Earle is much distressed:

An Englishman, *Russell*, the Earle of *Bedford*, Is by the French King solde vnto his death: 91

It may fall out, that I may doe him good; To saue his life, Ile hazard my hart blood.

Therefore, kinde sir, thanks for your liberrall gift;

I must be gone to aide him; ther's no shift.

Fri. Ile be no hinderer to so good an acte. Heauen prosper you in that you goe about!

If Fortune bring you this way backe againe, Pray let me see you: so I take my leaue; 99

All good a man can wish, I doe bequeath. [*Exit Friskiball.*]

Crom. All good that God doth send light on your head;

Theres few such men within our climate bred. How say you now, *Hodge*? is not this good fortune? 103

66 *Bandetto Qq* 80 *it om. M* 103 *now om. M*

24 on] of *Q1* 35, 36 *Bandetto Qq* 39 *Tom Ff*,
etc. 47 What, *Hodge*, hast *M* 48-51 *Verse Qq*,
Ff: *corr. M* 50 to *om. Ff*, etc. 53 and robb'd *M*
Bandetto Qq

Hod. How say you? Ile tell you what, maister *Thomas*; if all men be of this Gentle-mans minde, lets keepe our standings vpon this Bridge: we shall get more here with begging in one day, then I shall with making Horshoes in a whole yeare. 109

Crom. No *Hodge*, we must begone vnto *Bononia*,

There to releuee the noble Earle of *Bedford*:

Where, if I faile not in my policie,

I shall deceiue their subtile treacherie.

Hodge. Naye, Ile follow you. God blesse vs from the theeuing Bandettoes againe. 115

[*Exit omnes.*]

(SCENE II. *Bononia. A room in an hotel.*)

Enter Bedforde and his Hoast.

Bed. Am I betraide? was *Bedforde* borne to die

By such base slaues in such a place as this?

Haue I escaped so many times in *France*,

So many battailes haue I ouer passed,

And made the French stirre when they hard my name; 5

And am I now betraide vnto my death?

Some of their harts bloud first shall pay for it.

Hoa. They do desire, my Lord, to speake with you.

Bed. The traitors doe desire to haue my bloud, 9

But by my birth, my honour, and my name, By all my hopes, my life shall cost them deare.

Open the door; my venter out vpon them, And if I must die, then ile die with honour.

Hoa. Alas, my Lord, that is a desperate course;

They haue begirt you round about the house: 15

Their meaning is to take you prisoner,

And so to send your bodie vnto *France*.

Bed. First shall the Ocean be as drie as sand,

Before alieue they send me vnto *France*:

Ile haue my bodie first bored like a Siue, 20

And die as *Hector*, gainst the *Mirmidons*,

Eare *France* shall boast *Bedfordes* their prisoner.

Trecherous *France*, that, gainst the law of armes,

Hath here betraide thyemie to death.

But be assured, my bloud shalbe reuenged 25

Vpon the best liues that remaines in *France*.—

Enter a Seruant.

Stand backe, or els thou run'st vpon thy death.

Mes. Pardon, my Lord; I come to tell your honour,

That they haue hired a *Neopolitan*,

Who by his Oratorie hath promised them, 30

Without the shedding of one drop of bloud,

Into their handes safe to deliuer you,

And therefore craues none but himselfe may enter

And a poore swaine that attendes on him.

[*Exit seruant.*]

Bed. A *Neopolitan*? bid him come in. 35

Were he as cunning in his Eloquence

As *Cicero*, the famous man of *Rome*,

His wordes would be as chaffe against the winde.

Sweete tong'd *Vlisses* that made *Aiaxe* mad,

Were he and his tounge in this speakers head, Alieue he winnes me not; then, tis no conquest dead. 41

Enter Cromwell like a Neopolitan, and Hodge with him.

Cro. Sir, are you the maister of the house?

Hoa. I am, sir.

Cro. By this same token you must leaue this place,

And leaue none but the Earle and I together,

And this my Pessant here to tend on vs. 46

Hoa. With al my hart. God grant, you doe some good.

[*Exit Hoast. Cromwell shuts the dore.*]

Bed. Now, sir, whats your will with me?

Cro. Intends your honour not to yeeld your selfe?

Bed. No, good man goose, not while my sword doth last. 50

Is this your eloquence for to perswade me?

Cro. My Lord, my eloquence is for to saue you.

I am not, as you iudge, a *Neopolitan*, But *Cromwell*, your seruant, and an English-man.

Bed. How? *Cromwel*? not my Farriers sonne?

Cro. The same, sir, and am come to succour you. 56

Hod. Yes, faith, sir; and I am *Hodge*, your poore Smith. Many a time and oft haue I shoood your Dapper Gray.

Bed. And what auailles it me that thou art here? 60

Cro. It may auaille, if youle be rul'd by me. My Lord, you know the men of *Mantua*

104-9 Verse *Qq, Ff*: corr. *M* 115 Bandetti *Ff*
Scene II, *dc*, *add*, *M* 5 *skir con*; *St*.

26 *S, D*, after 27 *Qq, Ff*: corr. *M* 57-9 Verse *Qq*,
Ff, *dc*, *Smith* 59 dapple-grey *M*

And these *Bononians* are at deadlie strife,
And they, my Lord, both loue and honour you.
Could you but get out of the *Mantua* port, 65
Then were you safe despite of all their force.

Bed. Tut, man, thou talkest of things impossible.

Dost thou not see that we are round beset?
How, then, is it possible we should escape? 69

Crom. By force we cannot, but by pollicie.
Put on the apparell here that *Hodge* doth weare,

And giue him yours—the States, they know you not,

For, as I thinke, they neuer saw your face—
And at a watch-word must I call them in,

And will desire, that we safe may passe 75
To *Mantua*, where Ile say my businesse lies.

How doth your Honor like of this deuise?

Bed. O wondrous good! But will thou venter, *Hodge*?

Hod. Will I?—

O noble Lord, I do accorde, 80
In anything I can,

And do agree, to set thee free,
Do fortune what she can.

Bed. Come, then, lets change our apparrell straight.

Crom. Goe, *Hodge*; make hast, least they chance to call. 85

Hod. I warrant you ile fit him with a sute.
[*Exit Earle & Hodge.*]

Crom. Heauens graunt this pollicie doth take successe,

And that the Earle may safelie scape away.

And yet it greeues me for this simple wretch,
For feare they should offer him violence: 90

But of two euils, tis best to shun the greatest,
And better is it that he liues in thrall,

Then such a Noble Earle as he should fall.

Their stubborne harts, it may be, will relent,
Since he is gone to whom their hate is bent.— 95

My Lord, haue you dispatched?

Enter Bedford like the Clowne, and Hodge in his cloake and his Hat.

Bed. How doost thou like vs, *Cromwell*? is it well?

Crom. O, my Lord, excellent; *Hodge*, how doost feele thy selfe? 100

Hodg. How do I feele my selfe? why, as a Noble man should do. O, how I feele honor come creeping on! My Nobilitie is wonderful

To we two safe *Q 2*, etc. 79-83 Two lines *Qq*, *Ff*,
dir. after I can 84 and change we our *S* 85

should chance *M* 90 fear lest they *M* 92 line
Q 2, etc. 93 he] this *S* 99 my good Lord, *Ff*,
etc. 101-7 Verse *Qq*, *Ff*

melancholie: Is it not most Gentleman like to be melancholie? 105

Crom. Yes, *Hodge*; now goe sitte downe in his studie, and take state vpon thee.

Hodge. I warrant you, my Lord; let me alone to take state vpon me: but harke you,

my Lord, do you feele nothing bite about you?
Bed. No, trust me, *Hodge*. 111

Hod. I, they know they want their pasture; its a strange thing of this vermine, they dare not meddle with Nobilitie.

Crom. Go, take thy place, *Hodge*; Ile call them in.— 115

[*Hodge sits in the study, and Cromwell calles in the States.*]

All is done, enter and if you please.

Enter the States and Officers, with Halberts.

Gou. What, haue you wone him? will he yeelde himselfe?

Crom. I haue, an't please you, and the quiet Earle

Doth yeeld himselfe to be disposed by you.

Gou. Giue him the monie that we promised him; 120

So let him go, whether it please himselfe.

Crom. My businesse, sir, lies vnto *Mantua*, Please you to giue me safe conduct thether.

Gou. Goe and conduct him to the *Mantua* Port,

And see him safe deliuered presently. 125

[*Exit Cromwell and Bedford.*]

Goe draw the curtaines, let vs see the Earle.—
O, he is writing; stand apart awhile.

Hodge. Fellow William, I am not as I haue beene: I went from you a Smith, I write to you as a Lord. I am, at this present writing, among the *Polonyan Sasiges*. I do commend my Lordship to *Raphe & to Roger*, to *Bridget & to Doritie*, & so to all the youth of *Putnay*.

Gou. Sure, these are the names of English Noblemen, 134

Some of his speciall friends, to whom he writes: But stay, he doth adresse himselfe to sing.

[*Here he sings a song.*]

My Lord, I am glad you are so frolick and so blithe:

Beleeue me, noble Lord, if you knew all,
Youde change your merrie vaine to sudden sorrow.

Hodg. I change my merrie vaine? no, thou *Bononian*, no. 140

I am a Lord—and therefore let me goe—

106 go and sit *S* 107 his] the *Q 2*, *F 1*, *M*:
thy *F 2*, *R*, *Pope* 112 their old pasture *Q 2*, etc.
116 Now all *M* 118 an't *Q 2*: ante *Q 1* 121 it]
he *Ff* 123 a safe *M* 131 sausages *M*: *Sasiges*
Qq, *Ff*: *cosacks conj. Percy*

And doe defie thee and thy Sasigis;
Therefore stand off, and come not neere my honor.

Gou. My Lord, this iesting cannot serue your turne.

Hod. Doost thinke, thou blacke Bononyan beast, 145

That I doe floute, doe gibe, or iest,
No, no, thou Beare-pot, know that I,
A noble Earle, a Lord pardie—

A Trumpet soundes.

Gou. What meanes this Trumpets sound?

Enter a Messenger.

Cit. One come from the States of Mantua.

Gou. What would you with vs? speake, thou man of Mantua. 151

Mes. Men of Bononia, this my message is:
To let you know the Noble Earle of Bedford

Is safe within the towne of Mantua,

And willes you send the pessant that you haue,
Who hath deceiued your expectation; 156

Or els the States of Mantua haue vowed

They will recall the truce that they haue made,
And not a man shall stirre from forth your towne,

That shall returne, vnlesse you send him backe.

Go. O this misfortune, how it mads my hart! 161

The Neopolitan hath beguiled vs all.

Hence with this foole! what shall we do with him,

The Earle being gone? a plague vpon it all.

Hod. No, ile assure you, I am no Earle, but a smith, sir; 165

One *Hodge*, a smith at Putnay, sir;

One that hath gulled you, that hath bored you, sir.

Gou. Away with him! take hence the foole you came for.

Hod. I, sir, and ile leaue the greater foole with you.

Mes. Farewell, Bononians. Come, friend, a long with me. 170

Hod. My friend, afore; my Lordship will follow thee. [Exit.

Gou. Well, Mantua, since by thee the Earle is lost,

Within few dayes I hope to see thee crosd.

[Exit omnes.

Enter Chorus.

Cho. Thus farre you see how Cromwelles fortune passed.

142 I do M Casiges Ff 147-8 One line Qq: corr.
Ff S. D. after 149 Qq, Ff: corr. M 150 is come
M 165-7 Prose M

The Earle of Bedford, being safe in Mantua,
Desires Cromwells companie into France, 176
To make requittall for his courtesie:

But Cromwell doth denie the Earle his sute,
And telles him that those partes he meant tosee,

He had not yet set footing on the land, 180
And so directlie takes his way to Spaine:

The Earle to France, and so they both do part.
Now let your thoughtes, as swift as is the winde,
Skip some few yeares, that Cromwell spent in
trauell,

And now imagine him to be in England, 185
Seruant vnto the maister of the Roules,

Where in short time he there beganne to flourish.
An houre shall show you what few yeares did
cherish. [Exit.

(SCENE III. London. A room in Sir Christopher Hales's house.)

The Musick playes, they bring out the banquet.

Enter Sir Christopher Hales, and Cromwell, and two seruants.

Hales. Come, sirs, be carefull of your maisters credit,

And as our bountie now exceeds the figure
Of common entertainment: so do you

With lookes as free as is your maisters soule,
Giue formall welcome to the thronged tables,

That shall receiue the Cardinals followers 6

And the attendants of the Lord Chancellor.

But all my care, Cromwell, depends on thee.

Thou art a man differing from vulgar forme,
And by how much thy spirit is ranckt boue
these 10

In rules of Arte, by so much it shines brighter
By trauell whose obseruance pleades his merit,
In a most learned, yet vnaffected spirit.

Good Cromwell, cast an eye of faire regarde
Bout all my house, and what this ruder flesh,

Through ignorance, or wine, do miscreate, 16
Salue thou with curtesie: if welcome want,

Full bowles and ample banquets will seeme
scant.

Crom. Sir, what soeuer lies in me,
Assure (you), I will shew my vtmost dutie. 20

[Exit Crom.

Hales. About it, then; the Lords will
straight be here.—

Cromwell, thou hast those parts would rather
sute

The seruice of the state, then of my house.

187 he there Q 2, etc.: where he Q 1 188 nourish
conj. S. Scene III. etc. add. M 5 former Q 1
7 the great Lord Q 2, etc. 11 Ends trauell Qq, Ff:
corr. M 12 his] thy S 13 unaffected S 19 Sir,
as to M 20 you add. Q 2 21 striaght Q 1

I looke vpon thee with a louing eye,
That one day will prefer thy destinie.

25

Enter Messenger.

Mess. Sir, the Lords be at hand.

Hales. They are welcome; bid *Cromwell*
straight attend vs,
And looke you all things be in perfect readi-
nesse.

The Musicke layes. Enter Cardinall Wolsay,
Sir Thomas Moore and Gardiner.

Wol. O, sir *Christopher*,
You are too liberall. What, a banket to? 30

Hal. My Lordes, if wordes could show the
ample welcome,

That my free hart affordes you, I could then
Become a prater, but I now must deale
Like a feast *Polititian* with your Lordshipes:
Deferre your welcome till the banket end, 35
That it may then salue our defect of faire:
Yet Welcome now and all that tend on you.

Wol. Thanks to the kinde maister of the
Roules.

Come and sit downe; sit downe, sir *Thomas*
Moore.

Tis strange, how that we and the Spaniard differ.
Their dinner is our banquet after dinner, 41
And they are men of actiue disposition.

This I gather: that by their sparing meate
Their bodie is more fitter for the warres,
And if that famine chance to pinch their mawes,
Being vsde to fast it breedes lesse paine. 46

Hal. Fill me some Wine: Ile answer *Car-*
dinall Wolsay.

My Lord, we English are of more freer soules
Then hungerstarued and ill complexioned
spaniardes.

They that are rich in Spaine spare bellie foode,
To deck their backes with an Italian hooide, 51
And Silkes of Ciuill: And the poorest Snake,
That feedes on Lemmons, Pilchers, and neare
heated

His palat with sweete flesh, will beare a case
More fat and gallant then his starued face. 55
Pride, the Inquisition, and this bellie euill,
Are, in my iudgement, Spaines three headed
diuell.

Mo. Indeepe it is a plague vnto their nation,
Who stager after in blinde imitation.

Hal. My Lordes, with welcome, I present your
Lordships 60

28 perfect om. S 29-30 One line Qq: corr. M 32-5
Three lines, dir. after prater, Polititian Qq, F1: Prose
P2, R: corr. M 38 Our thanks M 43 By this
Molt. 44 is om. Q2: bodies are Ff, etc. 46
breeds in them less M 48 English M: Spaniardes
Q1: Englishmen Q2, Ff 59 Who] And Q1

A sollemne health.

Mo. I loue health well, but when (as)
healthes doe bring

Paine to the head and bodies surfeting,

Then cease I healthes.—
Nay, spill not, friend, for though the drops be
small, 65

Yet haue they force, to force men to the wall.

Wol. Sir *Christopher*, is that your man?

Hal. And like your grace; he is a Scholler
and

A *Lingest*, one that hath trauelled manie partes
Of Christendome, my Lorde. 70

Wol. My friend, come nearer; haue you
beene a traoueller?

Cro. My Lord, I haue added to my know-
ledge the loe Countries,

France, Spaine, Germanie, and Italie:

And though small gaine of profit I did finde,
Yet did it please my eye, content my minde.

Wol. What doe you thinke of the seuerall
states 76

And princes Courtes as you haue trauelled?

Cro. My Lord, no Court with England may
compare,

Neither for state nor ciuill gouernement:

Lust dwelles in *France*, in *Italie*, and *Spaine*,
From the poore pesant to the Princes traine,

In *Germanie* and *Holland* riot serues, 82

And he that most can drinke, most he deserues:
England I praise not, for I here was borne,
But that she laugheth the others vnto scorne.

Wol. My Lord, there dwelles within that
spirite 86

More then can be discerned by outwarde eye.
Sir Christopher, will you part with your man?

Hal. I haue sought to proffer him to your
Lordship,

And now I see he hath preferred himselfe. 90

Wol. What is thy name?

Crom. *Cromwell*, my Lorde.

Wol. Then, *Cromwell*, here we make thee
Solliciter of our causes, and nearest next our
selfe. Gardiner giue you kinde welcome to the
man. 96

Gardiner imbraces him.

Mo. My Lorde, you are a royall Winer,
Haue got a man besides your bountious dinner.
Well, Knight, prairie we come no more:

62 love healths M as add. Q2 64 Ends friend
Qq, Ff 68-70 Two lines Qq, Ff, dir. after Lingest
73 With France M 76 think then of M 85 that
she laughs M: sure she laughs Haz. 86 Ends more
M 87 by] by the M 89 to your] unto your M
93-5 Verse add.: dir. causes Qq, Ff: dir. solicitor M
93-6 Verse Qq 97 My lord cardinal M 98 Have
M: Hath Qq 99 Well, my good knight M pray
that we M

If we come often, thou maist shut thy doore.
Wol. Sir *Christopher*, hadst thou giuen me
 halfe thy landes, 101
 Thou couldest not haue pleased me so much as
 with
 This man of thine. My infant thoughtes do
 spell:
 Shortlie his fortune shall be lifted higher;
 True industrie doth kinde honours fier. 105
 And so, kinde maister of the Roules, farewell.
Hal. *Cromwell*, farewell.
Cro. *Cromwell* takes his leaue of you,
 That neare will leaue to loue and honour you.
 [*Exit omnes. The Musicke plays, as*
they go in.

(ACT IV.)

Enter Chorus.

Cho. Now *Cromwells* highest fortunes doth
 begin.

Wolsay, that loued him as he did his life,
 Committed all his treasure to his hands.
Wolsay is dead, and *Gardiner*, his man,
 Is now created Bishop of *Winchester*: 5
 Pardon if we omit all *Wolsayes* life,
 Because our play dependes on *Cromwelles*
 death.

Now sit and see his highest state of all;
 His haight of rysing and his sodaine fall.
 Pardon the errors is all readie past, 10
 And liue in hope the best doth come at last:
 My hope vpon your fauour doth depend,
 And looke to haue your liking ere the end.

[*Exit.*

(SCENE I. *The same. A publick walk.*)

Enter Gardiner Bishop of Winchester, The
Dukes of Norfolke, and of Suffolke, Sir
Thomas Moore, Sir Christopher Halles,
and Cromwell.

Nor. Maister *Cromwell*, since Cardinall
Wolsayes death,
 His maiestie is giuen to vnderstand
 Theres certaine billes and writings in your
 hand,
 That much concernes the state of England.
 My Lord of *Winchester*, is it not so? 5

Gar. My Lord of *Norfolke*, we two weare
 whilom fellowes;
 And, maister *Cromwell*, though our maisters
 loue

100 thou maist shut *Q 2, etc.*: or shut vp *Q 1* 101
 hadst *Q 2, etc.*: haddest hadst *Q 1* 101 ff. *End Qq.*
Fy me, me, thine, spell: *corr. M* *S. D.* The Musick . .
 go in after *Enter Chorus Qq. Ff* Act IV. *add. M*
 1 doth] do *F 2* 10 is] are *F 2* 13 looks *M* Scene I.
etc. add. M 4 concern *F 2* the present state *S*

Did binde vs, while his loue was to the King,
 It is no boote now to denie these things,
 Which may be preiudiciall to the state: 10
 And though that God hath raise my fortune
 hyer

Then any way I lookt for or deseru'de,
 Yet my life no longer with me dwell,
 Then I prooue true vnto my Soueraigne:
 What say you, maister *Cromwell*? haue you
 those writings? 15

I, or no?
Crom. Here are the writings, and vpon my
 knees,

I giue them vp vnto the worthy Dukes
 Of *Suffolke* and of *Norfolke*: he was my
 Maister,

And each vertuous part, 20
 That liued in him, I tender with my hart;
 But what his head complotted gainst the state
 My countries loue commands me that to hate.
 His sudden death I greeue for, not his fall,
 Because hesought to worke my countries thrall.

Suff. *Cromwell*, the King shall here of this
 thy dutie, 26

Whom I assure my selfe will well rewarde thee:
 My Lord lets go vnto his Maiestie,
 And show these writings which he longs to see.
 [*Exit Norfolke and Suffolke.*

Enter Bedford hastily.

Bed. How now, whose this? 30
Cromwell, by my soule! welcome to England:
 Thou once didst saue my life, didst not
Cromwell?

Crom. If I did so, 'tis greater glorie for me,
 That you remember it, then of my selfe
 Vainelie to report it. 35

Bed. Well, *Cromwell*, now is the time,
 I shall commend thee to thy Soueraigne:
 Cheere vp thy selfe, for I will raise thy state.
 A *Russell* yet was neuer found ingrate. [*Exit.*

Hales. O how vncertaine is the wheele of
 state. 40

Who latelie greater then the Cardinall,
 For feare, and loue? and now who lower lies?
 Gaye honours are but Fortunes flatteries,
 And whom this day pride and promotion
 swels,

To morrow enuie and ambition quells. 45

More. Who sees the Cob-web intangle the
 poore Flie,
 May boldlie say the wretches death is nigh.

13 Yet may my *M* 15-16 One line *Qq*: *Prose, given*
 to *Suff. Ff* 17-19 *End* writings, unto, *Norfolk M*
 17 vpon] on *M* 27 Who *M* 30 *Ends Cromwell*
Qq. Ff: soul *M* 31 my] by *Q 1* 33-5 *Two lines*
Qq. F 1, dit. after remember it 34 of] for *Q 2, etc.*
 46 tangle *M*

Gard. I knew his state and proud ambition
Was too too violent to last ouer-long.

Hales. Who soares too neare the sunne
with golden winges, 50
Meales then, to ruine his owne fortune
bringes.

Enter the Duke of Suffolke.

Suf. Cromwell, kneele downe in king
Henries name.—
Arise *Thomas Cromwell*; thus beginnes thy
fame.

Enter the Duke of Norfolke.

Norf. Cromwell, the maiestie of England,
For the good liking he conceiues of thee, 55
Makes thee maister of the iewell house,
Chiefe Secretarie to himselfe, and with all,
Creates thee one of his highnesse priuie
Counsell.

Enter the Earle of Bedforde.

Bed. Where is sir *Thomas Cromwell*? is he
knighted?

Suf. He is, my Lorde. 60

Bed. Then to adde honour to his name,
The King creates him Lord keeper of
His priuie Seale, and maister of the Roules,
Which you sir *Christopher* do now enioy;
The King determines higher place for you. 65
Crom. My Lords,

These honors are too high for my desert.

More. O content thee, man; who would not
choose it?

Yet thou art wise in seeming to refuse it. 69

Gard. Heres honors, titles, and promotions:
I feare this climing will haue a sudden fall.

Norf. Then come, my Lords; lets altoget-
ther bring

This new made Counsellor to Englands King.

[*Exit all but Gardiner.*]

Gard. But *Gardiner* meanes his glorie shall
be dimde. 74

Shall *Cromwell* liue a greater man then I?
My enuie with his honour now is bred;
I hope to shorten *Cromwell* by the head. [*Exit.*]

(SCENE II. London. A street before *Cromwell's*
house.)

Enter Friskiball very poore.

Fris. O *Friskiball*, what shall become of
thee?

48 know *Qq*, *Ff* 49 were *M* 54 the gracious
majesty *M* 56 thee the master *M* 61-2 *End*
honour to, keeper *M* 62 *Ends* Seale *Qq*, *Ff* 62
him] him the *M* 66-7 One line *Qq*, *Ff* Scene II.
etc. add. M

Where shalt thou go, or which way shalt thou
turne?

Fortune, that turnes her too vnconstant wheele,
Hath turn'd thy wealth and riches in the
Sea.

All parts abroad where euer I haue beene 5
Growes wearie of me, and denies me succour;
My debtors, they that should releuee my want,
Forsweares my monie, saies they owe me none:
They know my state too meane to beare out
law, 9

And here in London, where I oft haue beene,
And haue done good to manie a wretched man,
(I) Am now most wretched here, dispisd my
selfe.

In vaine it is, more of their hearts to trie; 13
Be patient, therefore, laye thee downe and die.

[*He lies downe.*]

Enter good man Seely, and his wife Ioane.

Seely. Come, *Ioane*, come; lets see what
heelee doe for vs now. Iwis we haue done for
him, when many a time and often he might
haue gone a hungrie to bed. 18

Wife. Alas, man, now he is made a Lord,
heelee neuer looke vpon vs; heele fullfill the
old Prouerbe: Set Beggars a horse-backe, and
theire ride.—A, welliday for my Cowe! such as
he hath made vs come behinde hand: we had
neuer pawnd our Cowe els to pay our rent. 24

Seely. Well, *Ioane*, heele come this waye:
and by Gods dickers, ile tell him roundlie of it,
and if hee were tenne Lordes: a shall knowe
that I had not my Cheese and my Bacon for
nothing. 29

Wife. Doe you remember, husband, how
hee woulde mouch vp my Cheese cakes? he
hath forgot this now, but weelee remember him.

Seelie. I, we shall haue now three flappes
with a Foxe taile: but, I faith, ile gibber a
ioynte, but ile tell him his owne. Staye, who
comes heere? O stand vppe; heere hee
comes; stand vppe. 37

Enter Hodge verie fine with a Tipstafe:
Cromwell, the Mace caried before him:
Norfolke, and Suffolke, and attendants.

Hod. Come, away with these beggars here;
rise vp, sirra.

Come, out the good people: runne afore there,
hol! 39

[*Friskiball riseth, and stands a farre off.*]

Seelie. I, wee are kicked awaye, now wee
come for our owne; the time hath beene he
woulde a looked more friendlye vpon vs. And

4 Hath drown'd *S* 12 Am *Qq*: And *Ff*: I am
M here] and *S* 32 but now weel *Q 2*, *etc.*

you, *Hodge*, we know you well inough, though you are so fine.

Cro. Come hether, sirrah.—Stay, what men are these? 45

My honest Host of Hounslow and his wife!

I owe thee mony, father, do I not?

Seelie. I, by the bodie of mee, dooest thou. Wouldst thou wouldest paye me: good foure pound it is, I haue a the poste at home. 50

Cro. I know tis true. Sirra, giue him ten Angels:

And looke your wife and you do stay to dinner: And while you liue, I freele giue to you

Foure pound a yeaere, for the foure pound I ought you. 54

Seelie. Art not changed, art ould *Tom* still! Now God blesse the good Lord *Tom*. Home, *Ioane*, home; ile dine with my Lorde *Tom* to day, and thou shalt come next weeke. Fetch my Cow; home, *Ioane*, home. 59

Wife. Now God blesse thee, my good Lorde *Tom*; ile fetch my Cow presentlie. [*Exit Wife.*]

Enter Gardiner.

Cro. Sirra, goe to yon stranger; tell him I Desire him stay at dinner. I must speake With him.

Gar. My Lorde of *Norfolke*, see you this same bubble, 65 That same puffed but marke the end, my Lord, Marke the ende.

Nor. I promise you, I like not somthing he hath done, But let that passe; the King doth loue him well.

Cro. Go(o)d morrow to my Lord of *Winchester*. 70

I know you beare me hard about the *Abbie* landes.

Gar. Haue I not reason, when religion is wronged?

You had no colour for what you haue done.

Cro. Yes; the abolishing of Antichrist, And of this Popish order from our Realme. I am no enemy to religion, 76

But what is done, it is for Englands good.

What did they serue for but to feede a sort Of lazie Abbotes and full fed Fryers?

They neither plow, nor sowe, and yet they reape 80

The fat of all the Land, and sucke the poore: Looke, what was theirs, is in King *Henries* handes;

His wealth before lay in the *Abbie* landes.

50 haue't M 55 ff. Verse Qq, Ff; corr. M 56 thee. good Ff, etc. 62-4 Two lines Qq, dic. after desire him: corr. M 63 at] to Q 2, etc. 66-7 One line Q 1 66 That same] That's a mere S 70 Ends know M

Gar. Indeede these things you haue aledged, my Lord,

When God doth know the infant yet vnborne Will curse the time the *Abbies* were puld downe. 86

I pray, now where is hospitality?

Where now may poore distressed people go, For to releue their neede, or rest their bones, When weary trauell doth oppresse their limmes? And where religious men should take them in, Shall now be kept backe with a Mastiue dogge, And thousand thousand—

Nor. O, my Lord, no more: thinges past redresse

Tis bootlesse to complaine. 95

Cro. What, shall we to the Conuocation house?

Nor. Weele follow you, my Lord; praie, leade the way.

Enter Old Cromwell like a Farmer.

Old. Cro. How? one *Cromwell* made Lord Keeper since I left Putnay

And dwelt in *Yorkeshire*. I neuer hard better newes:

Ile see that *Cromwell*, or it shall goe hard. 100

Cro. My aged father! state set aside, Father, on my knee I craue your blessing: One of my seruantes go and haue him in; At better leasure will we talke with him.

Old. Cro. Now if I die, how happy were the day! 105

To see this comfort raines forth showers of ioy. [*Exit Olde Cromwell*]

Nor. This dutie in him shoves a kinde of grace.

Cro. Go on before, for time drawes on apace. [*Exit all but Friskiball.*]

Fris. I wonder what this Lord would haue with me, 109

His man so stricktlie gaue me charge to stay: I neuer did offend him to my knowledge. Well, good or bad, I meane to bide it all; Worse then I am now neuer can befall.

Enter Banister and his wife.

Ba. Come, wife, I take it be almost dinner time, 114

For maister *Newton*, and maister *Crosbie* sent To me last night, they would come dine with me, And take their bond in: I pray thee, hie thee home,

And see that all thinges be in readinesse.

94 Ends more M 97 follow Q 2, etc.: fellow Q 1 98-100 Prose M 101 state then set M 102 on] upon M 114 be] to be M Two lines M 115 Ends to me Qq, Ff; corr. M

Mi. Ba. They shalbe welcome, husband;
ile go before.—

But is not that man maister *Friskiball*? 120
[*She runnes and imbrases him.*]

Ba. O heauens, it is kinde maister *Friskiball*!

Say sir, what hap hath brought you to this
passe?

Fris. The same that brought you to your
misery.

Ba. Why would you not acquaint me with
your state?

Is *Banister* your poore friend quite forgot? 125
Whose goods, whose loue, whose life and all is
yours?

Fri. I thought your vsage would be as the
rest,

That had more kindnesse at my handes then
you,

Yet looked asconce, when as they saw me
poore.

Mi. Ba. If *Banister* should beare so bace
a hart, 130

I neuer would looke my husband in the face,
But hate him as I would a Cockatrice.

Ba. And well thou mightest, should *Banister*
deale so.

Since that I saw you, sir, my state is mended:
And for the thousand pound I owe to you,

I haue it ready for you, sir, at home; 136
And though I greeue your fortune is so bad,

Yet that my hap's to helpe you makes me glad.
And now, sir, will it please you walke with
me?

Fris. Not yet I cannot, for the Lord Chan-
celour 140

Hath here commaunded me to waight on him,
For what I know not: pray God tis for my good.

Ba. Neuer make doubt of that; ile warrant
you,

He is as kinde a noble gentleman
As euer did possesse the place he hath. 145

Mi. Ba. Sir, my brother is his steward; if
you please,

Weale go along and beare you company:
I know we shall not want for welcome there.

Fris. With all my hart: but whats become
of *Bagot*?

Ba. He is hanged, for buying iewels of the
Kinges. 150

Fris. A iust reward for one so impious.
The time drawes on, sir; will you go along?

Ba. Ile follow you, kinde maister *Friskiball*.
[*Exit Omnes.*]

125 quite *om.* Q2, *Fy*: then forgot *M* 130
should] would *F2*, *etc.* 142 tis . . . my] it be for *Q2*,
etc.

(SCENE III. *The same. Another street.*)

Enter two Marchants.

1. Now, maister *Crosbie*, I see you haue
a care,

To keepe your word, in paiment of your monie.

2. By my faith, I haue reason vpon a bond;
Three thousand pound is too much to forfeit.

Yet I doubt not Maister *Banister*. 5

1. By my faith, your summe is more then
mine,

And yet I am not much behinde you too,
Considering that to day I paid at court.

2. Masse, and well remembered,
Whats the reason the Lord *Cromwells* men 10

Weare such long skirts vpon their coates.
They reach almost downe to their verie ham.

1. I will resolute you, sir; and thus it is:
The Bishop of *Winchester*, that loues not
Cromwell,

As great men are enuied, as well as lesse— 15
A while agoe there was a iarre betweene them,

And it was brought to my Lord *Cromwells* eare,
That Bishop *Gardiner* would sit on his skirt;

Vpon which word, he made his men long Blew
coates, 19

And in the Court wore one of them himselfe:
And meeting with the Bishop, quoth he, 'My
Lord,

Here's skirt enough now for your Grace to sit
on;'

Which vexed the Bishop to the very hart.
This is the reason why they weare long coates.

2. Tis alwaies seene, and marke it for a rule,
That one great man will enuie still another: 26

But tis a thing that nothing concerns me.
What, shall we now to Maister *Banisters*?

1. I, come, weele pay him royally for our
dinner. [*Exit.*]

(SCENE IV. *The same. A room in Cromwell's
house.*)

*Enter the Vsher and the Shewer, the meate
goes ouer the Stage.*

Vsher. Vncouer there, Gentlemen.

*Enter Cromwell, Bedford, Suffolke, Old Crom-
well, Friskiball, goodman Seelie, and
attendants.*

Crom. My noble Lordes of *Suffolke* and of
Bedford,

Scene III. *etc. add. M* S. D. *Enter Newton and
Crosby M* 3 vpon] on *M* 4 is far too *M* 5

And yet *M* 6 faith, sir, your *M* 9-12 *Three
lines M, div. after reason, upon* 10 the Lord]

Lord *M* 12 almost *om.* Q2, *etc.* 18 skirts Q2,
etc. 22 skirts *Ff, etc.* Scene IV. *etc. add. M*

Your honors welcome to poore *Cromwells*
house.

Where is my father? nay, be couered, Father.
Although that duty to these noble men 5
Doth challenge it, yet ile make bolde with
them.

Your head doth beare the callender of care.
What, *Cromwell* couered and his Father bare!
It must not be. Now, sir, to you. Is not
Your name *Friskiball* and a *Florentine*? 10
Fris. My name was *Friskiball*, till cruell
fate

Did rob me of my name and of my state.

Crom. What fortune brought you to this
countrie now?

Fri. All other parts hath left me succorlesse,
Sawe onelie this. Because of debts I haue, 15
I hope to gaine for to releuee my want.

Crom. Did you not once, vpon your *Florence*
bridge,
Helpe two distressed men, robd by the Ban-
detti?—

His name was *Cromwell*.

Fri. I neuer made my braine a calender 20
Of any good I did;
I alwaies lou'd this nation with my heart.

Crom. I am that *Cromwell* that you there
releued.

Sixteene Duckets you gaue me for to cloath
me,

Sixteene to beare my charges by the way, 25
And sixteene more I had for my horse hier:
There be those seuerall summes iustlie returnd,
Yet with iniustice, seruing at my need,
And to repay them without interest.

Therefore receiue of me these foure seuerall
bags; 30

In each of them there is foure hundred marke;
And bring me the names of all your debtors,
And if they will not see you paide, I will:
O God forbid, that I should see him fall,
That helpt me in my greatest need of all. 35
Here stands my Father that first gaue me life,
Alas, what dutie is too much for him?

This man in time of need did saue my life,
And therefore (I) cannot do too much for him.
By this old man I often times was fed, 40
Els might I haue gone supperlesse to bed.
Such kindnesse haue I had of these three men,
That *Cromwell* no way can repaie againe.

3 are welcome M 5 Ends challenge it Qq. Ff; corr.
M 9 Ends to you Qq. Ff; corr. M 18 two] a Q 2.
etc. men] man Ff. etc. Bandetto Qq 20-1 One
hio Qq. Ff; dir. after brain F 2 28 with iniustice]
it iniustice were that Q 2, etc. 29 And to Q 1: For
to Q 2, Ff; to M: And I conij. pr. ed. them] thee M
30 these am. M foure am. S 32 me] to me Q 2, etc.
debtors Q 2, etc. 39 And] I M 1 add. pr. ed.

Now in to dinner, for we stay too long,
And to good stomachs is no greater wrong. 45
[Exit omnes.

(SCENE V. *The same. A room in the Bishop
of Winchester's house.*)

Enter Gardiner in his studie, and his man.

Gard. Sirra, where be those men I caused to
stay?

Ser. They do attend your pleasure, sir,
within.

Gard. Bid them come hether, and stay you
without:—

For by those men, the Foxe of this same land,
That makes a Goose of better then himselfe,
Weele worie him vnto his latest home, 6
Or *Gardiner* will faile in his intent.

As for the Dukes of *Suffolke* and of *Norffolke*,
Whom I haue sent for to come speake with
me,

Howsoeuer outwardlie they shadow it, 10
Yet in their hearts I know they loue him not:
As for the Earle of *Bedford*, he is but one,
And dares not gaine-say what we do set downe.

Enter the two witnesses.

Now, my friends, you know I sau'd your liues,
When by the law you had deserved death, 15
And then you promised me vpon your othes,
To venture both your liues to do me good.

Both wit. We swore no more then that we
will performe,

Gard. I take your words; and that which
you must do

Is seruice for your God, and for your King: 20
To roote a rebell from this flourishing land,
One thats an enemie vnto the Church:

And therefore must you take your solemne
oathes,

That you heard *Cromwell*, the Lord Chaun-
cellor,

Did wish a dagger at King *Henries* hart. 25
Feare not to sweare it, for I hard him speake it;
Therefore weele shield you from insuing
harmes.

2. *Wit.* If you will warrant vs the deed is
good,

Weele vndertake it.

Gar. Kneele downe, and I wil here absolue
you both. 30

This Crucifix I lay vpon your head,
And sprinkle holy-water on your browes.
The deed is meritorious that you do,

Scene V. etc. add. M 6 Must worried be Q 2, etc.
14 my good friends M 20 you God Q 1 31
heads Q 2, etc.

And by it shall you purchase grace from heauen.

1. Now, sir, weele vndertake it, by our soules. 35

2. For *Cromwell* neuer loued none of our sort.

Gar. I know he doth not, and for both of you,

I will preferre you to some place of worth:

Now get you in, vntill I call for you, 39

For presentlie the Dukes meanes to be here.

[*Exit wit.*]

Cromwell, sit fast, thy time's not long to raigne.
The Abbies that were puld downe by thy meanes

Is now a meane for me to pull thee downe:
Thy pride also thy owne head lights vpon,
For thou art he hath changd religion:— 45
But now no more, for here the Dukes are come.

Enter Suffolke, Norfolke, and the Earle of Bedford.

Suff. Goodden to my Lord Bishop.

Nor. How fares my Lord? what, are you all alone?

Gar. No, not alone, my Lords; my mind is troubled; 49

I know your honours muse wherefore I sent,
And in such hast. What, came you from the King?

Norff. We did, and left none but Lord *Cromwell* with him.

Gard. 'O, what a dangerous time is this we lue in!

Theres *Thomas Wolsay*, hees alreadie gone,
And *Thomas Moore*, he followed after him: 55
Another *Thomas* yet there doth remaine,
That is farre worse then either of those twaine,
And if with speed, my Lords, we not pursue it,
I feare the King and all the land will rue it.

Bed. Another *Thomas*! pray God it be not *Cromwell*. 60

Gard. My Lord of *Bedford*, it is that traitor *Cromwell*.

Bed. Is *Cromwell* false? my hart will neuer thinke it.

Suff. My Lord of *Winchester*, what likelihood,

Or prooffe haue you of this his treacherie?

Gar. My Lord, too much.—Call in the men within. 65

Enter witnesses.

These men, my Lord, vpon their othes affirme,
That they did here Lord *Cromwell* in his garden,

44 also Q 2, etc. : vpon Q 1 47 Good euen Q 2, etc.

Wished a dagger sticking at the hart

Of our King *Henrie*. What is this but treason?

Bed. If it be so, my hart doth bleed with sorrow. 70

Suff. How say you friends? what, did you here these words?

1. *wit.* We did, and like your grace.

Norff. In what place was Lord *Cromwell* when he spake them?

2. *wit.* In his Garden, where we did attend a sute, 74

Which we had waited for two yeare and more.

Suff. How long ist since you heard him speake these words?

2. *wit.* Some halfe yeare since.

Bed. How chance that you conceald it all this time?

1. *wit.* His greatnesse made vs feare, that was the cause.

Gard. I, I, his greatnesse; thats the cause indeed; 80

And to make his treason here more manifest,

He calles his seruants to him round about,

Telles them of *Wolsayes* life, and of his fall,

Saies that himselfe hath manie enemies,

And giues to some of them a Parke or Manor,

To others Leases, Lands to other some: 86

What need he doe thus in his prime of life,

And if he were not fearfull of his death?

Suff. My Lord, these likelihoods are very great.

Bed. Pardon me, Lords, for I must needs depart; 90

Their prooffes are great, but greater is my heart. [*Exit Bedford.*]

Norff. My friends, take heed of that which you haue said.

Your soules must answer what your tongues reports:

Therefore, take heed, be warie what you doe.

2. *wit.* My Lord, we speake no more but truth. 95

Norff. Let them

Depart.—My Lord of *Winchester*, let these men be close kept vntill the day of triall.

Gar. They shall, my Lord: hoe, take in these two men. [*Exit witnesses.*]

My Lords, if *Cromwell* haue a publike triall,
That which we doe is voide by his deniall: 100

You know the king will credit none but him.

Nor. Tis true, he rules the King euen as he pleases.

Suff. How shall we do for to attache him, then?

68 Wishing M 87 thus] this S 95-8 End truth, Winchester, kept, trial (Qq, Ff; corr. M 96 them] him conj. M 97 let] and let M

Gard. Marie, my Lords, thus: by an Acte
he made himselfe, 105
With an intent to intrap some of our liues,
And this it is: If any Councillor
Be convicted of high treason, he shall
Be executed without a publike triall.
This Act, my Lords, he causd the King to
make. 110

Suff. A did indeed, and I remember it,
And now it is like to fall vpon himselfe.

Nor. Let vs not slack it, tis for Englands
good.

We must be warie, els heele go beyond vs.

Gar. Well hath your Grace said, my Lord
of *Norfolke*; 115

Therefore let vs presently to *Lambeth*.

Thether comes *Cromwell* from the Court to
night.

Let vs arest him, send him to the Tower,
And in the morning, cut off the traitors
head.

Nor. Come, then, about it, let vs guard the
towne. 120

This is the day that *Cromwell* must go downe.

Gard. Along, my Lords.—Well, *Cromwell*
is halfe dead;

He shaked my hart, but I will shaue his head.
[*Exeunt.*]

{ACT V. SCENE I. *A street in London.*}

Enter Bedford solus.

Bed. My soule is like a water troubled,
And *Gardiner* is the man that makes it so.
O, *Cromwell*, I do feare thy end is neare:
Yet Ile preuent their malice if I can.
And in good time, see where the man doth
come, 5
Who little knowes how neares his day of
dome.

Enter Cromwell with his traine. *Bedford makes
as though he would speake to him: he
goes on.*

Cro. Your well encountered, my good Lord
of *Bedford*.

I see your honour is adressed to talke;
Pray pardon me, I am sent for to the king,
And do not know the businesse yet my
selfe. 10

So fare you well, for I must needes be gone.
[*Exit all the traine.*]

Bed. You must; well, what remedie?
I feare too soone you must be gone indeed.

The king hath businesse, but little doest thou
know, 14
Whose busie for thy life: thou thinkes not so.

Enter Cromwell and the traine agayne.

Crom. The second time wel met, my Lord of
Bedford;

I am very sorry that my hast is such.

Lord *Marques Dorset* beeing sicke to death,
I must receave of him the priuie seale. 19
At *Lambeth*, soone, my Lord, weelee talke our
fill. [*Exit the traine.*]

Bed. How smooth and easie is the way to
death!

Enter a seruant.

Mes. My Lord, the dukes of *Norfolke* and
of *Suffolke*,

Accompanied with the Bishop of Winchester,
Intreats you to come presently to *Lambeth*,
On earnest matters that concernes the state.

Bed. To *Lambeth*! so: goe fetch me pen
and inke. 26

I and Lord *Cromwell* there shall talke enough;
I, and our last, I feare, and if he come.

[*He writes a letter.*]

Heare, take this letter, and beare it to Lord
Cromwell.

Bid him read it; say it concernes him neare:
Away, begone, make all the hast you can. 31
To *Lambeth* do I goe a woefull man. [*Exit.*]

{SCENE II. *A street near the Thames.*}

Enter Cromwell and his traine.

Crom. Is the Barge readie? I will straight
to *Lambeth*,
And if this one dayes businesse once were past,
I'de take my ease to morrow after trouble.—
How now, my friend, wouldst thou speake with
me?

[*The Messenger brings him the letter; he
puts it in his pocket.*]

Mes. Sir, heares a letter from my Lord of
Bedford. 5

Crom. O good, my friend, commend me to
thy Lord.
Hould, take those Angels; drinke them for thy
paynes.

Mes. He doth desire your grace to reade it,
Because he sayes it doth concerne you neare.

Crom. Bid him assure himselfe of that.
Farewell. 10

To morrow, tell him, shall he heare from me.—
Set on before there, and away to *Lambeth*.

[*Exeunt omnes.*]

108 *Ends treason* *Qq. Ff: corr. M* 115 my good
lord *M* 116 vs] us go *M* 123 shaue] shake cony.
M Act V. etc. add. *M* 8 om. *Ff, R*

(SCENE III. *Lambeth.*)

Enter Winchester, Suffolke, Norfolk, Bedford, Sargiant at armes, the Harauld, and halberts.

Gar. Halberts, stand close vnto the water-side;

Sargiant at armes, be bould in your office;
Harrauld, deliuer your proclamation.

Ha. This is to giue notice to all the kings subiects: The late Lord Cromwell, Lord Chancellor of England, Vicor generall ouer the realme, him to hould and esteeme as a traytor agaynst the Crowne and dignitie of England: So God saue the king.

Gar. Amen. 10

Bed. Amen,—and roote thee from the land,
For whilst thou liuest truth cannot stand.

Nor. Make a lane there, the traitors at hand.

Keepe backe Cromwels men;
Drowne them if they come on.—*Sargiant,* your office. 15

Enter Cromwell, they make a lane with their Halbertes.

Cro. What meanes my Lord of *Norfolke* by these wordes?

Sirs, come along.

Gar. Kill them, if they come on.

Sar. Lord *Cromwell,* in king *Henries* name,
I do arrest your honour of high treason. 20

Crom. Sargiant, me of treason?
[*Cromwels men offer to drawe.*]

Suf. Kill them, if they draw a sworde.

Crom. Hould; I charge you, as you loue me, draw not a sworde.

Who dares accuse *Cromwell* of treason now?

Gar. This is no place to reckon vp your crime; 25

Your Doue-like lookes were viewed with serpents eyes.

Crom. With serpents eyes, indeed, by thine they were;

But *Gardiner* do thy woorst, I feare thee not.

My fayth, compared with thine, as much shall passe,

As doth the Diamond excell the glasse. 30

Attached of treason, no accusers by!

Indeede, what tongue dares speake so foule a lie?

Nor. My Lord, my Lord, matters are too well knowne,

And it is time the king had note thereof.

Scene III. *etc.* add. *M* 2 be you bold *M* 4-9

Verses in Qq. Ff: corr. M 12 the truth *M* 14

Ends come on M 19 Lord Thomas Cromwell *M*

Crom. The king! let me goe to him face to face; 35

No better triall I desire then that:

Let him but say that *Cromwels* fayth was fayned,

Then let my honour and my name be stayned.

If euer my hart agaynst my king was set,

O let my soule in Iudgement aunswere it: 40

Then, if my faythes confirmed with his reason,
Gaynst whom hath *Cromwell*, then, committed treason?

Suf. My Lord, your matter shall be tried;
Meane time, with patience content your selfe.

Cro. Perforce I must with patience be content. 45

O deare friend *Bedford*, doest thou stand so neare?

Cromwell reioyceth one friend sheds a teare.
And whether ist? which way must *Cromwell* now?

Gar. My Lord, you must vnto the tower.
Lieutenant,

Take him to your charge. 50

Cro. Well, where you please; yet before I part,

Let me conferre a little with my men.

Gar. As you goe by water, so you shall.

Cro. I haue some businesse present to impart.

Nor. You may not stay. Lieutenant, take your charge. 55

Cro. Well, well, my Lord, you second *Gardiners* text.

Norfolke, farewel; thy turne wilbe the next.
[*Exit Cromwell and the Lieutenant.*]

Gar. His guiltie conscience makes him raue,
my Lord.

Nor. I, let him talke; his time is short enough.

Gar. My Lord of *Bedford*, come; you weepe for him, 60

That would not shed halfe a teare for you.

Bed. It grieues me for to see his sudden fall.

Gar. Such successe wish I to traitours still.
[*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE IV. *London. A street.*)

Enter two Citizens.

1. Why, can this newes be true? ist possible?
The great Lord *Cromwell* arreasted vpon treason!

49 *Ends tower Qq, Ff: corr. M* 50 to] unto *M*
51 yet] but yet *M* 53 *Ay, as M* 61 halfe om. *Ff.*
R: even half M 63 to] vnto *Q 2, etc.* Scene IV.
etc. add. M

I hardly will beleue it can be so.

2. It is too true, sir; would it were otherwise,
Condition I spent halfe the wealth I had. 5
I was at *Lambeth*, saw him there arrested,
And afterward committed to the Tower.

1. What, wast for treason that he was committed?

2. Kinde, noble Gentleman! I may rue the time.

All that I haue, I did inioy by him, 10
And if he die, then all my state is gone.

1. It may be doubted that he shall not die,
Because the King did fauour him so much.

2. O sir, you are deceived in thinking so.
The grace and fauour he had with the king
Hath causde him haue so manie enemies: 16
He that in court secure will keepe himselfe,
Must not be great, for then he is enuiet at.
The Shrub is safe, when as the Cedar shakes;
For where the King doth loue aboute compare,
Of others they as much more enuiet are. 21

1. Tis pittie that this noble man should fall,
He did so many charitable deeds.

2. Tis true, and yet you see in each estate,
Theres none so good, but some one doth him hate. 25

And they before would smile him in the face,
Will be the formost to do him disgrace:
What, will you go along vnto the Court?

1. I care not if I do, and here the newes,
How men will iudge what shall become of him.

2. Some will speake hardly, some will
speake in pitie. 31

Go you to the Court, Ile vnto the Citie;
There I am sure to here more newes then you.

1. Why, then, soone will we meet againe.
[Exit.]

⟨SCENE V. A room in the Tower.⟩

Enter Cromwell in the Tower.

Crom. Now, *Cromwell*, hast thou time to meditate,

And thinke vpon thy state, and of the time.
Thy honours came vnsought, I, and vnlooked for;

Thy fall as sudden, and vnlooked for to.
What glorie was in England that I had not? 5
Who in this land commanded more then
Cromwell?

Except the King who greater then my selfe?
But now I see, what after ages shall:
The greater men, more sudden is their fall.
And now I do remember the Earle of *Bedford*

Was very desirous for to speake to me, 11
And afterward sent to me a letter,
The which I thinke I haue still in my pocket.
Now may I read it, for I now haue leasure,
And this I take it is. [He reads the Letter.
My Lord, come not this night to Lambeth, 16
For if you do, your state is ouerthrowne.
And much I doubt your life, and if you come:
Then if you loue your selfe, stay where you are.

O God! had I but read this letter, 20
Then had I beene free from the Lions paw;
Deferring this to read vntill to morrow,
I spurd at ioy, and did imbrace my sorrow.

Enter the Lieutenant of the Tower and officers.

Now, maister *Lieutenant*, when's this day of death?

Lieu. Alas, my Lord, would I might neuer see it. 25

Here are the Dukes of *Suffolke* and of *Norfolke*,
Winchester, *Bedford*, and sir *Richard Ratcliffe*,
With others, but why they come I know not.

Crom. No matter wherefore, *Cromwell* is
prepard; 29

For *Gardiner* has my state and life insnard.
Bid them come in, or you shall do them wrong,
For here stands he, whom some thinkes liues too long.

Learning killes learning, and instead of Inck
To dip his Pen, *Cromwells* heart blood doth drinke.

Enter all the Nobles.

Norf. Good morrow, *Cromwell*. What, alone, so sad? 35

Crom. One good among you, none of you are bad.—

For my part, it best fits me be alone;
Sadnesse with me, not I with any one.

What, is the king acquainted with my cause?

Norf. We haue, and he hath answered vs, my Lord. 40

Cro. How, shall I come to speake with him my selfe?

Gard. The King is so aduertised of your guilt,

He will by no meanes admit you to his presence.

Cro. No way admit me? am I so soone forgot?

Did he but yesterday imbrace my neck, 45
And said that *Cromwell* was euen halfe himselfe,
And is his Princely eares so much bewitched

5 had] haue Q 2, etc. 12 doubted] hoped Q 2, etc.
32 vnto] go into Q 2, etc. 34 again: adieu
St. Scene V, etc. add. M. 9 men Ff: man Qq

12 to] vnto Q 2, etc. 20 O God, O God! M 28
others] others still S 40 We haue] He is M

With scandalous ignomie, and slanderous speeches,

That now he dooth denie to looke on me?

Well, my Lord of *Winchester*, no doubt but you Are much in fauour with his Maiestie: 51

Will you beare a letter from me to his grace?

Gard. Pardon me, ile beare no traitors letters.

Crom. Hal Will you do this kindnesse then? Tell him

By word of mouth, what I shall say to you? 55

Gard. That will I.

Crom. But, on your honour, will you?

Gard. I, on my honor.

Crom. Beare witnesse, Lords.—Tell him when he hath knowne you, 59

And tried your faith but halfe so much as mine, Heele finde you to be the falsest harted man In England. Pray, tell him this.

Bed. Be patient, good my Lord, in these extreames.

Crom. My kinde and honorable Lord of *Bedford*,

I know your honor alwaies loued me well; 65 But, pardon me, this still shall be my theame; *Gardiner* is the cause makes *Cromwell* so extreame.

Sir *Ralph Sadler*, pray, a word with you: You were my man, and all that you possesse Came by my meanes; to requite all this, 70 Will you take this letter here of me, And giue it with your owne hands to the king?

Sad. I kisse your hand, and neuer will I rest, Eare to the king this be deliuered. [*Exit Sadler.*]

Crom. Why yet *Cromwell* hath one friend in store. 75

Gard. But all the hast he makes shall be but vaine.—

Heres a discharge for your prisoner,

To see him executed presentlie.—

My Lord, you here the tenor of your life.

Crom. I doe imbrace it, welcome my last date, 80

And of this glistering world I take last leaue: And, noble Lords, I take my leaue of you.—

As willinglie I goe to meete with death, As *Gardiner* did pronounce it with his breath:

From treason is my hart as white as Snowe, My death onlie procured by my foe. 86

I pray, commend me to my Soueraigne king, And tell him in what sort his *Cromwell* died, To loose his head before his cause were tride:

But let his Grace, when he shall here my name, Say onely this: *Gardiner* procured the same. 91

Enter young Cromwell.

Lieu. Here is your sonne, come to take his leaue.

Crom. To take his leaue! Come hether, *Harry Cromwell.*

Marke, boye, the last words that I speake to thee. 94

Flatter not Fortune, neither fawne vpon her; Gape not for state, yet loose no sparke of honor;

Ambition, like the plague see thou eschew it; I die for treason, boy, and neuer knew it.

Yet let thy faith as spotlesse be as mine, 99 And *Cromwells* vertues in thy face shall shine.

Come, goe along and see me leaue my breath, And Ile leaue thee vpon the floure of death.

Son. O, father, I shall die to see that wound; Your blood being spilt will make my hart to sound. 104

Cro. How, boy, not looke vpon the Axe! How shall I do then to haue my head stroke off?

Come on, my childe, and see the end of all, And after say that *Gardiner* was my fall.

Gar. My Lord, you speake it of an enuious hart; 109

I haue done no more then lawe and equitie.

Bed. O, good my Lord of *Winchester*, forbear;

It would a better seemed you to beene absent, Then with your wordes disturbe a dying man.

Cro. Who me, my Lord? no, he disturbes not me.

My minde he stirres not, though his mightie shocke 115

Hath brought mo peeres heads downe to the blocke.

Farewell, my boy! all *Cromwell* can bequeath, My hartie blessing; so I take my leaue.

Hang. I am your deaths man; pray, my Lord, forgiue me.

Crom. Euen with my soule. Why, man, thou art my Doctor, 120

And bringes me precious Phisicke for my soule.—

My Lord of *Bedford*, I desire of you, Before my death, a corporall imbrace.

[*Bedford comes to him, Cromwell imbraces him.* Farewell, great Lord; my loue I do commend, My hart to you; my soule to heauen I send.

This is my ioy that, eare my bodie fleete, 126

54 Ends then *Q*, *F*: *corr.* *M* 59 Two *clints* *Q*, *F*.
div. after *Lords* 68 I pray *M* 70 to] sir, to *M*
71 Say will *M* 75 Why then yet *M* 77 for] sir,
for *S* 86 procured only *M*

92 son, sir, come *M* 105 not dare to look *M*
112 a] haue *M*: *om.* *Q* 2, *F* beene] have been *M*
116 to] unto *M*

Your honourd armes is my true winding sheete.
Farewell, deare *Bedford*; my peace is made in
heauen.

Thus falles great *Cromwell* a poore ell in
length,

To rise to vnmeasured height, winged with
new strength, 130

The land of Wormes, which dying men dis-
couer,

My soule is shrinde with heauens celestiall
couer.

[*Exit Cromwell and the officers, and others.*]

Bed. Well, farewell, *Cromwell*, the trewest
friend, 133

That euer *Bedford* shall possesse agayne.—

Well, Lordes, I feare, when this man is deade,
Youle wish in vayne that *Cromwell* had a head.

Enter one with Cromwels head.

Offi. Heare is the head of the deceased
Cromwell.

131 The *Qq*, etc.: Hail conj. *St.*
the *M* 135 that when *M*

133 the] sure

Bed. Pray thee, goe hence, and beare his
heade away
Vnto his bodie; inter them both in clay.

Enter sir Raulphe Sadler.

Sad. Ho now, my Lordes: what, is Lord
Cromwell dead? 140

Bed. Lord *Cromwels* body now doth want
a heade.

Sad. O God! a little speede had saued his
life.

Here is a kinde repriue come from the king,
To bring him straight vnto his maiestie.

Suf. I, I, sir *Raulph*, repriues comes now
too late. 145

Gar. My conscience now telles me this deede
was ill:

Would Christ that *Cromwell* were aliuie againe.
Nor. Come, let vs to the king, whom well
I know,

Will grieve for *Cromwell*, that his death was
so, [*Exeunt omnes.*]

FINIS.

148 whom] who *M*

THE LONDON

Prodigall.

As it was plaide by the Kings Maie-
sties seruants.

By *William Shakespeare,*



LONDON.

Printed by T. C. for *Nathaniel Butter*, and
are to be sold neere *S Austins gate*,
at the signe of the pyde Bull.

1605.

- Q* = Quarto of 1605
F 1 = (Third) Folio Shakespeare, 1664
F 2 = (Fourth) „ „ 1685
R = Rowe, 1709
Pope = supplementary volume to Pope's Shakespeare, 1728
M = Malone, 1780
St. = Steevens, *ibid.*
Th. = Theobald, *ibid.*
S = Simms, 1848
T = Tyrrell, 1851
Haz. = Hazlitt, 1852
Molt. = Moltke, 1869
pr.ed. = present editor

THE LONDON PRODIGALL

(The Actors Names in the *London Prodigal*.

M. Flowerdale (Senior),² a Merchant trading at Venice.

Matth. Flowerdale, his Prodigal Son.

M. Flowerdale, (Junior),³ Brother to the Merchant.

Sir Lancelot Spurcock, of Lewsome in Kent.

Frances.

Luce. } Daughters to Sir Lancelot Spurcock.

Delia. }

Daffidill. }

Hartichoak. } Servants to Sir Lance. Spurcock.

The Scene London (and the Parts adjacent).¹

Sir Arthur Greenshoo, a Com- } In love with
mander. } Luce.

Oliver a Devonshire⁴ Clothier. }

Weathercock, a Parasite to Sir Lance. Spurcock.

Tom Civet, in love with Frances.

Dick and Raph, two cheating Gamessters.

Ruffin, a Pander to Mistris Apricock a Bawd.

Sheriff and Officers.

A Citizen and his wife.

Drawers.)⁵

(ACT I. SCENE I. London. A room in Flowerdale Junior's house.)

Enter old Flowerdale and his brother.

Fath. Brother, from Venice, being thus disguise,

I come to proue the humours of my sonne.

How hath he borne himselfe since my departure,

I leauing you his patrone and his guide?

Vnck. Ifaith, brother, so, as you will grieve to heare,

And I almost ashamde to report it. 6

Fath. Why, how ist, brother? what, doth he spend beyond the allowance I left him?

Vnck. How! beyond that? and farre more: why, your exhibition is nothing. Hee hath spent that, and since hath borrowed; protested with oathes, alledged kindred to wring mony from me,—by the loue I bore his father, by the fortunes might fall vpon himself, to furnish his wants: that done, I haue had since his bond, his friend and friends bond. Altho I knowe that hee spends is yours; yet it grieues me to see the vnbridled wildnes that raines ouer him. 19

Fath. Brother, what is the manner of his life? howe is the name of his offences? If they do not relish altogether of damnation, his youth may priuiledge his wantonnesse: I my selfe ranne an vnbrideled course till thirtie, nay, almost till fortie;—well, you see how I am: for vice, once looked into with the eyes of discretion, and well balanced with the waies of reason, the course past seemes so abhominable, that the Landlord of himselfe, which is the heart of his body, will rather

intombe himself in the earth, or seek a new Tenant to remaine in him:—which once settled, how much better are they that in their youth haue knowne all these vices, and left it, then those that knewe little, and in their age runnes into it? Beleeue me, brother, they that dye most vertuous hath in their youth liued most vicious, and none knowes the danger of the fire more then he that fallies into it. But say, how is the course of his life? lets heare his particulars. 41

Vnck. Why, Ile tell you, brother; hee is a continual swearer, and a breaker of his oathes, which is bad.

Fath. I grant indeed to sweare is bad, but not in keeping those oathes is better: for who will set by a bad thing? Nay, by my faith, I hold this rather a vertue then a vice. Well, I pray, proceede.

Vnck. He is a mighty brawler, and comes commonly by the worst. 51

Fath. By my faith, this is none of the worst neither, for if he brawle and be beaten for it, it will in time make him shunne it: For what brings man or child more to vertue then correction? What raines ouer him else? 56

Vnck. He is a great drinker, and one that will forget himselfe.

Fath. O best of all! vice should be forgotten: let him drink on, so he drinke not churches. Nay, and this be the worst, I hold it rather a happines in him, then any iniquity. Hath he any more attendants?

Vnck. Brother, he is one that will borrow of any man. 65

Fath. Why, you see, so doth the sea: it borrowes of all the smal currents in the world, to encrease himselfe.

¹ and . . adjacent add. R ², ³ Add. M ⁴ Cor-nish Q. Ff: corr. M ⁵ Dram. Pers. add. F I Act I. etc. add. M 22 damndation Q

35 it] 'em R 36 run F 2, etc. it] 'em R 45 Prefix Vnck. Q 46 not in] in not conj. M: the not Haz. 47-70 Nay Verse Q, F I 62 a om. Ff

Vnck. I, but the sea paies it againe, and so will neuer your son. 70

Fath. No more would the sea neither, if it were as dry as my sonne.

Vnck. Then, brother, I see you rather like these vices in your sonne, then any way condemn them. 75

Fath. Nay, mistake me not, brother, for tho I slur them ouer now, as things slight and nothing, his crimes being in the budde, it would gall my heart, they should euer raigne in him. 80

Flow. Ho! whoes within? ho!

[*Flowerdale knockes within.*]

Vnck. That's your sonne, hee is come to borrow more money.

Fath. For Godsake giue it out I am dead; see how hele take it. Say I haue brought you newes from his father. I haue here drawne a formall will, as it were from my selfe, which Ile deliuer him. 88

Vnck. Goe too, brother, no more: I will.

Flow. Vnckle, where are you, Vnckle? [within.]

Vnck. Let my cousen in there.

Fath. I am a Sayler come from Venice, and my name is Christopher.

Enter Flowerdale.

Flow. By the Lord, in truth, Vnckle— 94

Vnck. In truth would a seru'd, cousen, without the Lord.

Flow. By your leaue, Vnckle, the Lord is the Lord of truth. A couple of rascalles at the gate set vpon me for my purse. 99

Vnck. You neuer come, but you bring a brawle in your mouth.

Flow. By my truth, Vnckle, you must needes lend me tenne pound.

Vnck. Giue my cousen some small beere here. 105

Flow. Nay, looke you, you turne it to a iest now: by this light, I should ryde to Croydon fayre, to meete syr Lancelot Spurrock. I should haue his daughter Luce, and for scury tenne pound, a man shal loose nine hundred three-score and odde pounds, and a daily friend beside. By this hande, Vnckle, tis true.

Vnck. Why, any thing is true for ought I know. 115

Flow. To see now! why, you shall haue my bond, Vnckle, or Tom Whites, Iames Brocks, or Nick Halls: as good rapyer and dagger men, as any be in England. Lets be damnb'd

73-80 Verse Q, F 1 84-8 Verse Q, Ff 97-9, 106-10 Nay . . scury Verse Q, F 1

if wee doe not pay you: the worst of vs all will not damne our selues for ten pound. A poxe of ten pound! 122

Vnck. Cousen, this is not the first time I haue beleue'd you.

Flow. Why, trust me now, you know not what may fall. If one thing were but true, I would not greatly care, I should not neede ten pound, but when a man cannot be beleueed, —ther's it.

Vnck. Why, what is it, cousen? 130

Flow. Mary, this, Vnckle: can you tell me if the Katern-hue be come home or no?

Vnck. I, mary, ist.

Flow. By God I thanke you for that newes. What, ist in the poole, can you tell? 135

Vnck. It is; what of that?

Flow. What? why then I haue sixe peeces of vellet sent me; Ile giue you a peece, Vnckle: for thus said the letter, —a peece of Ashcolour, a three pilde black, a colour de roy, a crimson, a sad greene, and a purple: yes, yfaith. 141

Vnck. From whom should you receiue this?

Flow. From who? why, from my father; with commendations to you, Vnckle, and thus he writes: I know, saith he, thou hast much troubled thy kinde Vnckle, whom God-willing at my returne I will see amplysatisfied. Amply, I remember was the very word, so God helpe me. 150

Vnck. Haue you the letter here?

Flow. Yes, I haue the letter here, here is the letter: no, yes, no;—let me see, what breechs wore I a Satterday? let me see: a Tuesday my Calymanka; a Wednesday my peach colour Sattin; a Thursday my Vellure; a Friday my Callymanka againe; a Satterday —let me see—a Satterday,—for in those breeches I wore a Satterday is the letter: O, my ryding breeches, Vnckle, those that you thought had bene vellet; in those very breeches is the letter. 162

Vnck. When should it be dated?

Flow. Mary, *Decimo tertio septembris*—no, no—*decimo tertio Octobris*; I, *Octobris*, so it is.

Vnck. *Decimo tertio Octobris*! and here receiue I a letter that your father dyed in Iune: how say you, Kester? 168

Fath. Yes, truly, syr, your father is dead, these hands of mine holpe to winde him.

Flow. Dead?

Fath. I, syr, dead.

125-7 Why . . care Verse Q, F 1 132 Catherine and Hugh M 140 colourde deroy Q: corr. M 144 whom M 164-5 Didicimo tersios . . trydisimo tersios Q: corr. M 166 Diceditimo tersios Q

Flow. Sblood, how should my father come dead?

Fath. Yfaith, syr, according to the old Prouerbe: 175

The childe was borne and cryed, became man,

After fell sicke, and dyed.

Vnck. Nay, cousen, doe not take it so heavily. 179

Flow. Nay, I cannot weepe you extempory: mary, some two or three dayes hence, I shall weep without any stintance. But I hope he dyed in good memory. 183

Fath. Very well, syr, and set downe euery thing in good order; and the Katherine and Hue you talkt of, I came ouer in: and I saw all the billes of lading, and the vellet that you talkt of, there is no such aboard.

Flow. By God, I assure you, then, there is knauery abroad. 190

Fath. Ile be sworne of that: ther's knauery abroad,

Altho there were neuer a peece of vellet in Venice.

Flow. I hope he dyed in good estate.

Fath. To the report of the world he did, and made his will,

Of which I am an vnworthy bearer. 195

Flow. His will! haue you his will?

Fath. Yes, syr, and in the presence of your Vnckle

I was willed to deliuer it.

Vnck. I hope, cousen, now God hath blessed you with wealth, you will not be vnmindfull of me. 201

Flow. Ile doe reason, Vnckle, yet, yfaith, I take the deniall of this tenne pound very hardly.

Vnck. Nay, I denyde you not. 205

Flow. By God, you denide me directly.

Vnck. Ile be iudge(d) by this good fellowe.

Fath. Not directly, syr. 209

Flow. Why, he said he would lend me none, and that had wont to be a direct denyall, if the old phrase holde. Well, Vnckle, come, wee le fall to the Legasies: (reads) 'In the name of God, Amen. Item, I bequeath to my brother *Flowerdale* three hundred pounds, to pay such triu(i)all debts as I owe in London. Item, to my sonne *Mat Flowerdale*, I bequeath two bayle of false dyce; *Videllicet*, high men and loe men, fullmores, stop cater traies, and other bones of function.' 220

180 cannon Q 207 judg'd Ff: iudge Q good-fellowe Q S. D. reads add. M 218 Videlliced Q

Sblood, what doth he meane by this?

Vnck. Proceede, cousen.

Flow. "These precepts I leaue him: let him borrow of his oath, for of his word no body will trust him. Let him by no meanes marry an honest woman, for the other will keepe her selfe. Let him steale as much as he can, that a guilty conscience may bring him to his destinate repentance."—I thinke he meanes hanging. And this were his last will and Testament, the Diuell stood laughing at his beddes feete while he made it. Sblood, what, doth hee thinke to fop of his posteritie with Paradoxes? 234

Fath. This he made, syr, with his owne hands.

Flow. I, well; nay, come, good Vnckle, let me haue this ten pound. Imagine you haue lost it, or (been) robd of it, or misreckond your selfe so much: any way to make it come easily off, good Vnckle. 241

Vnck. Not a penny.

Fath. Yfaith, lend it him, syr. I my selfe haue an estate in the Citie worth twenty pound: all that ile ingage for him; he saith it concerns him in a marriage. 246

Flow. I, marry, doth it. This is a fellow of some sense, this: Come, good Vnckle.

Vnck. Will you giue your word for it, Kester? 250

Fath. I will, syr, willingly.

Vnck. Well, cousen, come to me some hower hence, you shall haue it readie.

Flow. Shall I not faile?

Vnck. You shall not, come or send. 255

Flow. Nay, ile come my selfe.

Fath. By my troath, would I were your worships man.

Flow. What, wouldst thou serue?

Fath. Very willingly, syr. 260

Flow. Why, ile tell thee what thou shalt doe: thou saith thou hast twentie pound; goe into *Burchin Lane*, put thy selfe into cloathes; thou shalt ride with me to *Croyden* fayre. 264

Fath. I thanke you, syr; I will attend you.

Flow. Well, Vnckle, you will not faile me an hower hence?

Vnck. I will not, cousen.

Flow. Whats thy name? Kester?

Fath. I, syr. 270

Flow. Well, prouide thy selfe: Vnckle, farewell till anon. [Exit *Flowerdale*.

221 Prefix *Flow.* repeated before this line Q, Ff 223-9 These . . . repentance Verse Q, F I 233 fob M: lop Walker 239 been robd pr. ed.: robd Q, Ff: were robb'd M 252 some] an R 262 saist Ff, etc.

Vnck. Brother, how doe you like your sonne?

Fath. Yfaith, brother, like a mad vnbridled colt,

Or as a Hawke, that neuer stoop'd to lure:

The one must be tamde with an yron byt, 276

The other must be watched, or still she is wilde.

Such is my sonne; awhile let him be so:

For counsell still is follies deadly foe.

He serue his youth, for youth must haue his course, 280

For being restrainde, it makes him ten times worse:

His pride, his ryot, all that may be named,

Time may recall, and all his madnesse tamed.

(*Exeunt.*)

(SCENE II. *The high street in Croydon. An inn appearing, with an open drinking booth before it.*)

Enter syr Lancelot, Maister Weathercocke, Daffidill, Artichoake, Luce, and Francke.

Lance. Syrrha Artichoake, get you home before,

And as you proued your selfe a calfe in bying, Drue home your fellow calves that you haue bought.

Arti. Yes, forsooth; shall not my fellow Daffidill goe along with me?

Lance. No, syr, no; I must haue one to waite on me. 5

Arti. Daffidill, farewell, good fellow Daffidill.

You may see, mistresse, I am set vp by the halues:

In steed of waiting on you, I am sent to drue home calves.

Lance. Yfaith, Francke, I must turne away this Daffidill,

Hees growne a very foolish sawcie fellow. 10

Fran. Indeed law, father, he was so since I had him:

Before he was wise enough for a foolish seruing-man.

Wea. But what say you to me, syr Lancelot?

Lance. O, about my daughters? wel, I will goe forward.

Heers two of them, God saue them: but the third, 15

O shees a stranger in her course of life.

Shee hath refused you, Maister Weathercocke.

Wea. I, by the Rood, syr Lancelot, that she hath,

But had she tride me,

She should a found a man of me indeed. 20

S. D. *Exeunt add. R* Scene II. *etc. add. M* 19—
20 *One line Q. Ff*

Lance. Nay be not angry, syr, at her deniall. Shee hath refus'de seauen of the worshipfulst And worthiest hous-keepers this day in Kent: Indeed she will not marry, I suppose.

Wea. The more foole she. 25

Lance. What, is it folly to loue Chastitie?

Wea. No, mistake me not, syr Lancelot, But tis an old prouerbe, and you know it well, That women dying maides lead apes in hell.

Lance. Thats a foolish prouerbe, and a false. 30

Wea. By the masse I thinke it be, and therefore let it goe:

But who shall marry with mistresse Frances?

Fran. By my troath, they are talking of marrying me, sister.

Luce. Peace, let them talke:

Fooles may haue leaueto prattle as they walke.

Daff. Sentesses still, sweet mistresse; 36
You haue a wit, and it were your Alliblaste.

Luce. Yfaith, and thy tongue trips trenchmore.

Lance. No, of my knight-hood, not a shuter yet:

Alas, God helpe her, sillie girle, a foole, a verie foole: 40

But thers the other black-browes, a shrood girle,

Shee hath wit at will, and shutters two or three: Syr Arthur Greene-sheld one, a gallant knight, A valiant Souldier, but his power but poore.

Then thers yong Oliuer, the Deuen-shyre lad, A wary fellow, marry, full of wit, 46

And rich by the rood; but thers a third all aire, Light as a feather, changing as the wind:

Young Flowerdale.

Wea. O hee, syr, hees a desperate dick indeed. 50

Barre him your house.

Lance. Fye, not so, hees of good parentage.

Wea. By my faie and so he is, and a proper man.

Lance. I, proper enough, had he good qualities.

Wea. I, marrie, thers the point, syr Lancelot, 55

For thers an old saying:

Be he rich, or be he poore,

Be he hye, or be he lowe:

Be he borne in barne or hall,

Tis maners makes the man and all. 60

Lance. You are in the right, maister Weathercock.

22-3 *Prose Q: corr. M* 26 *Charitie Q: corr. R*
27 *No, no M* 36 *Sentences R, etc.* 48-9 *One*
line Q: corr. F 2 52 *Fie, sir M* 57 *poore] poe*
conj. M

Enter Mounsier Ciuet.

Ciuet. Soule, I thinke I am sure crossed, or wictit with an owle. I haue hanted them, Inne after Inne, booth after booth, yet cannot finde them: ha, yonder they are; thats shee. I hope to God tis sheel nay, I know tis shee now, for she treads her shooe a little awry.

Lance. Where is this Inne? we are past it, *Daffidill.* 69

Daffidill. The good signe is heere, syr, but the back gate is before.

Ciuet. Saue you, syr. I pray, may I borrow a peece of a word with you?

Daff. No peecees, syr.

Ciu. Why, then, the whole. I pray, syr, what may yonder gentlewomen be? 76

Daff. They may be Ladies, syr, if the destinies and mortalitie worke.

Ciu. Whats her name, syr?

Daff. Mistresse *Frances Spurcocke*, syr *Lancelots Spurcockes* daughter. 81

Ciu. Is she a maid, syr?

Daff. You may aske *Pluto*, and dame *Proserpine* that: I would be loth to be ridelled, syr. 85

Ciu. Is she married, I meane, syr?

Daff. The Fates knowes not yet what shoe-maker shall make her wedding shoos.

Ciu. I pray, where Inne you syr? I would be very glad to bestowe the wine of that gentlewoman. 91

Daff. At the *George*, syr.

Ciu. God saue you, syr.

Daff. I pray your name, syr?

Ciu. My name is maister *Ciuet*, syr. 95

Daff. A sweet name. God be with you, good maister *Ciuet*. [*Exit Ciuet.*]

Lance. A, haue we spide you, stout S. *George*?

For all your dragon, you had best selles good wine,

That needs no yuie-bush: well, weelee not sit by it, 100

As you do on your horse. This roome shall serue:—

Drawer, let me haue sacke for vs old men: For these girles and knaues small wines are best.

A pinte of sacke, no more. 104

Draw. A quart of sack in the three Tunnes.

Lance. A pinte, draw but a pinte.—*Daffidill*, call for wine to make your selues drinke.

Fran. And a cup of small beere, and a cake, good *Daffidill*. 109

Enter yong Flowerdale.

Flow. How now? fye, sit in the open roome? now, good syr *Lancelot*, & my kind friend worshipfull Maister *Weathercock*! What, at your pinte? a quart for shame.

Lance. Nay, Royster, by your leaue we will away. 115

Flow. Come, giues some Musicke, weelee goe dance. Begone, syr *Lancelot*? what, and fayre day too?

Luce. Twere fowly done, to dance within the fayre. 120

Flow. Nay, if you say so, fairest of all faires, then ile not dance. A poxe vpon my tayler, he hath spoyled me a peach colour satten shute, cut vpon cloath of siluer, but if euer the Rascall serue me such an other tricke, Ile giue him leaue, yfaith, to put me in the calender of fooles: and you, and you, syr *Lancelot* and Maister *Weathercock*. My gold-smyth too, on tother side—I bespoke thee, *Luce*, a carkenet of gold, and thought thou shouldst a had it for a fayring, and the Rogue puts me in rerages for Oryant Pearle: but thou shalt haue it by sunday night, wench. 133

Enter the Drawer.

Draw. Syr, here is one hath sent you a pottle of rennish wine, brewed with Rose-water.

Flow. To me?

Draw. No, syr, to the knight; and desires his more acquaintance. 139

Lance. To me? whats he that proues so kind?

Daff. I haue a tricke to know his name, syr. He hath a moneths mind here to mistresse *Frances*, his name is maister *Ciuet*.

Lance. Call him in, *Daffidill*. 145

Flow. O I know him, syr, he is a foole, But reasonable rich; his father was one of these lease-mongers, these corne-mongers, these mony-mongers, but he neuer had the wit to be a whore-monger. 150

Enter maister Ciuet.

Lance. I promise you, syr, you are at too much charge.

Cyud. The charge is small charge, syr; I thanke God my father left me wherewithall: if it please you, syr, I haue a great mind to this gentlewoman here, in the way of marriage. 156

Lance. I thank you, syr: please you come to *Lewsome*

To my poore house, you shall be kindly welcome:

I knewe your father, he was a wary husband.—
To paie here, Drawer. 160

Draw. All is paid, syr: this gentleman hath paid all.

Lance. Yfaith, you do vs wrong,
But we shall liue to make amends ere long:

Maister Flowerdale, is that your man? 165

Flow. Yes, faith, a good old knaue.

Lance. Nay, then I thinke

You will turne wise, now you take such a seruant:

Come, youle ride with vs to *Lewsome*; lets away.

Tis scarce two howres to the end of day.

[*Exit Omnes.*]

(ACT II. SCENE I. *A road near Sir Lancelot Spurcock's house, in Kent.*)

Enter syr Arthur Green-shood, Olyuer, Lieutennant and Souldiers.

Aur. Lieutenant, leade your Souldiers to the ships.

There let them haue their coates, at their arriuall

They shall haue pay: farewell, looke to your charge.

Sol. I, we are now sent away, and cannot so much as speake with our friends. 5

Oly. No, man; what, ere you vsed a zutch a fashion, thicke you cannot take your leaue of your vreens?

Aur. Fellow, no more. Lieutenant, lead them off. 10

Sol. Well, if I haue not my pay and my cloathes, Ile venture a running away tho I hang fort.

Aur. Away, surrha, charme your tongue.
[*Exit Souldiers.*]

Oly. Bin you a presser, syr? 15

Aur. I am a commander, syr, vnder the King.

Oly. Sfoot, man, and you bee nere zutch a commander, shud a spoke with my vreens before I chid agone, so shud. 20

Aur. Content your selfe, man, my authority will stretch to presse so good a man as you.

Oly. Presse me? I deuye (ye), presse scoundrells, and thy messels: Presse me! chee scornes thee, yfaith: For seest thee, heres a

worshipfull knight knowes cham not to be pressed by thee. 28

Enter syr Lancelot, Weathercocke, yong Flowerdale, old Flowerdale, Luce, Franck.

Lance. Syr Arthur, welcome to *Lewsome*, welcome by my troath. Whats the matter, man? why are you vext? 31

Oly. Why, man, he would presse me.

Lance. O Fie, syr Arthur, presse him? he is (a) man of reckoning.

Wea. I, that he is, syr Arthur, he hath the nobles, 35

The golden ruddockes he.

Ar. The fitter for the warres: and were he not

In fauour with your worships, he should see, That I haue power to presse so good as he.

Oly. Chill stand to the triall, so chill. 40

Flow. I, marry, shall he, presse-cloath and karsie, white pot and drowsen broath: tut, tut, he cannot.

Oly. Well, syr, tho you see vlouten cloath and karsie, chee a zeene zutch a karsie coate weare out the towne sick a zilken lacket, as thicke a one you weare. 47

Flow. Well sed, vlitan vlattan.

Oly. A, and well sed, cocknell, and boe-bell too: what, doest thincke cham a vearde of thy zilken coate? nefer vere thee. 51

Lance. Nay, come, no more, be all louers and friends.

Wea. I, tis best so, good maister Olyuer.

Flow. Is your name maister Olyuer, I pray you? 56

Oly. What tit and be tit, and grieve you.

Flow. No, but Ide gladly know if a man might not haue a foolish plot out of maister Olyuer to worke vpon. 60

Oly. Worke thy plots vpon me! stand a side:—worke thy foolish plots vpon me! chill so vse thee, thou weart neuer so vsed since thy dame bound thy head. Worke vpon me? 65

Flow. Let him come, let him come.

Oly. Zyrrha, zyrrha, if it were not vor shame, chee would a giuen thee zutch a whisterpoope vnder the eare, chee would a made thee a vanged an other at my feete: stand a side, let me loose, cham all of a vlaming fire-brand; Stand aside. 71

Flow. Well, I forbeare you for your friends sake.

Oly. A vig for all my vreens! doest thou tell me of my vreens? 75

166 *Ends wise Q: corr. M* Act II. *etc. add. M*
S. D. Greenshield *M* 6-8 No man what ere . .
vrens *Q* 11-13 *Verse Q. Ff* 15 Bin and you . .
Q: corr. Ff 24 deuye ye *pr. ad.: deuye Q. etc.*

34 a *add. F1* 37 *Ends fauour Q: corr. M* 41-3
Verse Q: corr. M 51 coate, *Q* nefer *pr. ed.: no fer*
Q, Ff no veare vor thee *M* 68 whister poope *Q, Ff*

Lance. No more, good maister Oliuer; no more,

Syr Arthur. And, maiden, here in the sight Of all your shuters, euery man of worth, Ile tell you whom I faintest would preferre To the hard bargaine of your marriage bed.— Shall I be plaine among you, gentlemen? 81

Arth. I, syr, tis best.

Lance. Then, syr, first to you:—

I doe confesse you a most gallant knight, A worthy souldier, and an honest man: 85 But honestie maintaines (not) a french-hood, Goes very seldome in a chain of gold, Keepses a small traine of seruants: hath fewe friendes.—

And for this wilde oates here, young *Flowerdale*,

I will not iudge: God can worke myracles, 90 But hee were better make a hundred new, Then thee a thrifty and an honest one.

Wea. Beleuee me, he hath byt you there, he hath touched you to the quicke, that hath he. 95

Flow. Woodcocke a my sidel why, maister *Weathercocke*, you know I am honest, howsoeuer trifles—

Wea. Now, by my troath, I knowe no other-wise.

O your old mother was a dame indeed: 100 Heauen hath her soule, and my wiues too, I trust:

And your good father, honest gentleman, He is gone a Iourney, as I heare, far hence.

Flow. I, God be praised, he is far enough. He is gone a pylgrimage to Paradise, 105 And left me to cut a caper against care.

Luce. looke on me that am as light as ayre.

Luce. Yfaith, I like not shadowes, bubbles, breath,

I hate a light a loue, as I hate death.

Lance. Gyrle, hold thee there: looke on this Deuen-shyre lad: 110

Fat, faire, and louely, both in purse and person.

Oly. Well syr, cham as the Lord hath made me. You know me well, yuine: cha haue three-score packe a karsay, and blackem hal, and chiefe credit beside, and my fortunes may be so good as an others, zoe it may.

Luce. (aside to *Ar.*) Tis you I loue, whatsoeuer others say.

Ar. Thanks, fayrest. 120

Flow. (aside to *Fath.*) What, wouldst thou haue me quarrell with him?

Fath. Doe but say he shall heare from you.

Lance. Yet, gentlemen, howsoeuer I preferre

This Deuen-shyre shuter, Ile enforce no loue; My daughter shall haue liberty to choose 126 Whom she likes best; in your loue shute proceed:

Not all of you, but onely one must speed.

Wea. You hauesed well: indeed, right well.

[Enter *Artychoak*.

Arty. Mistresse, heeres one would speake with you. My fellow *Daffidill* hath him in the sellor already: he knowes him; he met him at *Croyden* fayre.

Lance. O, I remember, a little man.

Arty. I, a very little man. 135

Lance. And yet a proper man.

Arty. A very proper, very little man.

Lance. His name is Mounsier *Ciuet*.

Arty. The same, syr.

Lance. Come, Gentlemen, if other shuters come, 140

My foolish daughter will be fitted too:

But *Delia* my saint, no man dare moue.

[Exeunt all but young *Flowerdale* and *Olyuer*, and old *Flowerdale*.

Flow. Harke you, syr, a word.

Oly. What haan you to say to me now?

Flow. Ye shall heare from me, and that very shortly. 146

Oly. Is that all? vare thee well, chee vere thee not a vig. [Exit *Olyuer*.

Flow. What if (he) should come now? I am fairely drest. 150

Fath. I doe not meane that you shall meete with him,

But presently weelee goe and draw a will:

Where weelet seed downe land that we neuer sawe,

And we will haue it of so large a summe, *Syr Lancelot* shall intreat you take his daughter: This being formed, giue it maister *Weathercocke*, 156

And make syr *Lancelots* daughter heire of all: And make him sweare neuer to show the will To any one, vntil that you be dead.

This done, the foolish changing *Weathercocke* Will straight discourse vnto syr *Lancelot* 161 The forme and tenor of your Testament.

Nor stand to pause of it, be rulde by mee:

What will inshue, that shall you quickly see.

76-92 *Prose Q*: corr. *M* 82 *Prefix Arty. Q* 86
not add. *M* 93 byt] hit *Ff*, etc. 94-5 that he
hath *Ff*, etc. 108 breath *M*: breath *Q* 114-15 at
Blackem-Hall *M* 118 *Prefix Lance. Q*: corr. *M*

124-6 *Two lines Q*, div. shuter: corr. *M* 124
gentleman *Q*, *F* 1 *S. D.* Exeunt] Exit at *Q* 144
ha an *Q*, *Ff* you say *Ff* 149 he add. *F* 2 now
R: more *Q*, *Ff* 163 Nor] Ne'er *M*

Flow. Come, lets about it: if that a will,
sweet *Kyt*,¹⁶⁵
Can get the wench, I shall renowne thy wit.
[*Exit omnes.*]

(SCENE II. *A room in sir Lancelot's house.*)

Enter Daffidill.

Daff. Mistresse, still froward? No kind
lookes

Vnto your *Daffidill*? now by the Gods—

Luce. Away, you foolish knaue, let my
hand goe.

Daff. There is your hand, but this shall
goe with me:

My heart is thine, this is my true loues fee. 5

Luce. Ile haue your coate stript ore your
eares for this,

You sawcie rascall.

[*Enter Lancelot and Weathercocke*

Lance. How now, maid, what is the newes
with you?

Luce. Your man is something sawcie.

[*Exit Luce.*

Lance. Goe too, syrrha, Ile talke with you
anon. 10

Daff. Syr, I am a man to be-talked withall,
I am no horse, I tro:

I know my strength, then no more then so.

Wea. A, by the matkins, good syr *Lancelot*,
I saw him the other day hold vp the bucklers,
like an *Hercules*. Ifaith, God a marcie, lad,
I like thee well. 17

Lance. I, I like him well: go, syrrha, fetch
me a cup of wine,

That ere I part with maister *Weathercocke*,
We may drinke downe our farewell in French
wine. 20

Wea. I thanke you, syr, I thanke you,
friendly knight.

Ile come and visit you, by the mouse-foot I
will:

In the meane time, take heed of cutting *Flower-
dale*.

He is a desperate dyck, I warrant you. 24

Lance. He is, he is: fill, *Daffidill*, fill me
some wine. Ha, what wearres he on his
arme? My daughter *Luces* bracelet. I, tis
the same.—Ha to you, maister *Weathercocke*.

Wea. I thanke you, syr: Here, *Daffidill*, an
honest fellow and a tall thou art. Well, ile take
my leaue, good knight, and hope to haue you
and all your daughters at my poore house; in
good sooth I must.

Scene II, etc. add. M 1 Ends froward Q, Ff
1-2 Prose M 11-13 Prose M 14 A) Ay R. etc.
makins M 18 I. I. like Q, Ff: Ay, Ay, like R. etc.

Lance. Thankes, maister *Weathercocke*, I
shall be bold to trouble you, be sure. 35

Wea. And welcome hartly; farewell.

[*Exit Weathercocke.*

Lance. Syrrha, I saw my daughters wrong,
and withall her bracelet on your arme: off
with it, and with it my liuery too. Haue I
care to see my daughter matched with men
of worship, and are you growne so bold? Goe,
syrrha, from my house, or ile whip you hence.

Daff. Ile not be whipped, syr, theres your
liuery. 43

This is a seruimgmans reward: what care I?

I haue meanes to trust too: I scorne seruice, I.

[*Exit Daffidill.*

Lance. I, a lusty knaue, but I must let him
goe, 46

Our seruants must be taught what they
should know. (*Exit.*)

(SCENE III. *The same.*)

Enter syr Arthur and Luce.

Luce. Syr, as I am a maid, I doe affect
You about any shuter that I haue,
Altho that souldiers scarce knowes how to loue.

Ar. I am a souldier, and a gentleman,
Knowes what belonges to war, what to a lady:
What man offends me, that my sword shall
right: 6

What woman loues me, I am her faithfull
knight.

Luce. I neither doubt your vallour, nor
your loue,

But there be some that bares a souldiers forme,
That sweares by him they neuer thinke vpon,
Goes swaggering vp and downe from house to
house, 11

Crying God payes: and—

Ar. Ifaith, Lady, ile disery you such a man.
Of them there be many which you haue spoke
off,

That beare the name and shape of souldiers, 15
Yet God knowes very seldome saw the war:

That haunt your Tauerns, and your ordinaries,
Your ale-houses sometimes, for all a-like
To vphold the brutish humour of their mindes,
Being marked downe, for the bondmen of
dispare: 20

Their mirth begins in wine, but endes in
blood,

Their drinke is cleare, but their conceits are
mud.

S. D. Exit Daffodil follows 43 Q S. D. Exit add.

Scene III. Another room in the same M
1-3 Prose Q, Ff: corr. M 8-12 Prose Q, Ff: corr.
M 12 and all M

Luce. Yet these are great gentlemen souldiers.

Ar. No, they are wretched slaues, Whose desperate liues doth bring them timelesse graues. 25

Luce. Both for your selfe, and for your forme of life, If I may choose, ile be a souldiers wife.

(*Exeunt.*)

(SCENE IV. *The same.*)

Enter syr Lancelot and Oliuer.

Oli. And tyt trust to it, so then.

Lance. Ashure your selfe, You shall be married with all speed we may: One day shall serue for *Frances* and for *Luce*.

Oli. Why che wood vaine know the time, for prouiding wedding rayments. 6

Lance. Why, no more but this: first get your ashurance made, touching my daughters ioynter; that dispatched, we wil in two daies make prouision. 10

Oli. Why, man, chil haue the writings made by to-morrow.

Lance. To morrow be it then: lets meet at the kings head in fish street.

Oli. No, fie, man, no, lets meet at the Rose at *Temple-bar*. 15

That will be nearer your counsellor and mine.

Lance. At the Rose be it then, the hower nine:

He that comes last forfeits a pinte of wine.

Oli. A pinte is no payment, let it be a whole quart or nothing. 19

Enter Artichoake.

Arty. Maister, here is a man would speake with maister *Oliuer*: he comes from young maister *Flowerdale*.

Oli. Why, chillspeake with him, chill speake with him. 24

Lance. Nay, sonne *Oliuer*, ile shurely see what young *Flowerdale* hath sent to you. I pray God it be no quarrell.

Oli. Why, man, if he quarrell with me, chill giue him his hands full.

[*Enter old Flowerdale.*

Fath. God saue you, good syr *Lancelot*. 30

Lance. Welcome, honest friend.

Fath. To you and yours my maister wisheth health, But vnto you, syr, this, and this he sendes: There is the length, syr, of his rapier, 34 And in that paper shall you know his mind.

S. D. add. M Scene IV. Another room in the same *M* 25-7 Verse *Q*

Oly. Here, chill meet him, my vrend, chill meet him.

Lance. Meet him! you shall not meet the *Ruffin*, fye.

Oly. And I doe not meete him, chill giue you leaue to call me cut; where ist, syr rha? where ist? where ist? 42

Fath. The letter showes both the time and place,

And if you be a man, then keepe your word,

Lance. Syr, he shal not keepe his word, he shal not meet.

Fath. Why, let him choose, heele be the better knowne

For a base rascall, and reputed so. 47

Oly. *Zyrrha*, *zyrrha*: and tweare not an old fellow, and sent after an arrant, chid giue thee something, but chud be no mony: But hold thee, for I see thou art somewhat testorne; holde thee, theres vortie shillings: bring thy maister a veeld, chil giue thee vortie more; looke thou bring him: chil mall him, tell him, chill mar his dauncing tressels, chil vse him, he was nere so vsed since his dam bound his head; chill make him for capyring any more, chy vor thee.

Fath. You seeme a man, stout and resolute, And I will so report, what ere befall. 60

Lance. And fall out ill, ashure thy maister this,

Ile make him flye the land, or vse him worse.

Fath. My maister, syr, deserues not this of you,

And that youle shortly finde.

Lance. Thy maister is an vnthrift, you a knaue, 65

And ile attache you first, next clap him vp Or haue him bound vnto his good behauiour.

Oly. I wood you were a sprite, if you do him any harme for this. And you doe, chill nere see you, nor any of yours, while chill haue eyes open: what, doe you thinke, chil be abaffelled vp and downe the towne for a messell and a scoundrel? no, chy vor you: *zyrrha*, chil come; zay no more, chil come, tell him. 75

Fath. Well, sir, my Maister deserues not this of you,

And that youle shortly finde. [*Exit.*

Lanc. No matter, he's an vnthrift; I defie him.

Now, gentle sonne, let me know the place.

Oly. No, chy vore you. 80

57 make] mar *M* 59 man] man, sir *M* 73 vor] bor *Q*, *Ff* 78 *Profr* *Oly.* *Q*, etc.: corr. pr. *al.* 79 *Profr* *Lanc.* before this time *Q*, etc. Now Pope: No *Q*, *Ff* 80 No Pope: Now *Q*, *Ff*

Lanc. Let me see the note.

Oly. Nay, chill watch you for zutch a trickie. But if che meet him, zoe, if not, zoe: chill make him knowe me, or chill know why I shall not, chill vare the worse. 85

Lanc. What, will you then neglect my daughters loue?

Venture your state and hers, for a loose brawle?

Oly. Why, man, chill not kill him; marry, chill veze him too, and againe; and zoe God be with you, vather. What, man, we shall me(e)t to morrow. [Exit.]

Lanc. Who would a thought he had bin so desperate. 92
Come forth, my honest seruant *Artichoake*.

Enter Artic.

Arti. Now, what's the matter? some brawle toward, I warrant you. 95

Lanc. Goe get me thy sword bright scowred, thy buckler mended. O for that knaue, that *Vyllaine Daffidill* would haue done good seruice. But to thee. 99

Art. I, this is the trickes of all you gentlemen, when you stand in neede of a good fellow. O for that *Daffidill*, O where is he? but if you be angry, and it bee but for the wagging of a strawe, then: out a doores with the knaue, turne the coate ouer his eares. This is the humour of you all. 106

Lanc. O for that knaue, that lustie *Daffidill*!

Art. Why, there tis now: our yeares wages and our vailes will scarce pay for broken swords and bucklers that wee vse in our quarrels. But Ile not fight if *Daffidill* bee a tother side, that's flat. 113

Lanc. Tis no such matter, man. Get weapons ready, and bee at London ere the breake of day: watch neere the lodging of the Deuon-shire Youth, but be vnseen: and as he goes out, as he willgoe out, and that very earely without doubt— 119

Art. What, would you haue me draw vpon him, as he goes in the streete?

Lanc. Not for a world, man: into the fields; for to the field he goes, there to meet the desperat *Flowerdale*. Take thou the part of *Olyuer* my sonne, for he shal be my son, and marry *Luce*. Doest vnderstand me, knaue?

Art. I, syr, I doe vnderstand you, but my young mistress might be better prouided in matching with my fellowe *Daffidill*. 130

114-19 Verse M, *dic.* after ready, day, youth, out, doubt 120-1 Verse Q 122-7 Verse Q, *dc.*

Lance. No more; *Daffidill* is a knaue: That *Daffidill* is a most notorious knaue.

[Exit (*Arti.*)]

Enter Weathercocke.

Maister Weathercocke, you come in happy time. The desperat *Flowerdale* hath writ a challenge: And who thinke you must answer it, but the Deuenshyre man, my sonne *Oliuer*? 137

Wea. Mary, I am sory for it, good syr *Lancelot*,

But if you will be ruled by me, wee le stay the furie.

Lance. As how, I pray?

Wea. Marry, ile tell you: by promising yong *Flowerdale* the red lipped *Luce*. 142

Lance. Ile rather follow her vnto her graue.

Wea. I, syr *Lancelot*, I would haue thought so too, but you and I haue bene deceiued in him: come read this will, or deed, or what you call it, I know not. Come, come, your spectacles I pray. 149

Lance. Nay, I thanke God, I see very well.

Wea. Marry, God blesse your eyes, mine hath bene dim almost this thirtie yeares.

Lance. Ha, what is this? what is this?

Wea. Nay, there is true loue, indeede: He gaue it to me but this very morne, 155 And bid me keepe it vnseene from any one.

Good youth, to see how men may be deceiued!

Lance. Passion of me, what a wretch am I To hate this louing youth: he hath made me, Together with my *Luce* hee loues so deare, Executors of all his wealth. 161

Wea. All, all, good man; he hath giuen you all.

Lance. Three ships now in the straits & homeward bound,

Two Lordships of two hundred pound a yeare, The one in *Wales*, the other in *Gloster-shyre*: Debts and accounts are thirtie thousand pound; Plate, mony, Iewels, 16. thousand more; 167 Two housen furnished well in *Cole-man* street: Beside whatsoever his Vnckle leaues to him, Being of great demeanes and wealth at *Peckham*. 170

Wea. How like you this, good knight? how like you this?

Lance. I haue done him wrong, but now ile make amends.

The Deuen-shyre man shall whistle for a wife:

132 S.D. *Arti.* add. R 139 the] their M 145-9 Verse M 152 have F², etc. 154-61 Prose Q, Ff: corr. M 170 domains M

He marrie *Luce*! *Luce* shall be *Flowerdales*.

Wea. Why, that is friendly said. 175
Lets ride to *London* and preuent their match,
By promising your daughter to that louely
lad.

Lance. Weele ride to *London*:—or it shall
not need,
Weele crosse to *Dedfort-strand*, and take a
boat.

Where be these knaues? what, *Artichoake*?
what, *Fop*? 180

Enter Artichoake.

Arty. Heere be the very knaues, but not the
merry knaues.

Lance. Here, take my cloake, ile haue
a walke to *Dedford*.

Arty. Syr, wee haue bin scouring of our
swords and bucklers for your defence. 184

Lance. Defence me no defence! let your
swords rust, ile haue no fighting: I, let blowes
alone; bid *Delia* see all things be in readinesse
against the wedding. Weele haue two at
once, and that will saue charges, maister
Weathercocke. 190

Arty. Well, we will doe it, syr.

[*Exit Omnes.*]

(ACT III. SCENE I. *A walk before sir
Lancelot's house.*)

Enter Ciu, Francke, and Delia.

Ciu. By my truth, this is good lucke, I
thanke God for this. In goodsooth, I haue euen
my harts desire: sister *Delia*, now I may boldly
call you so, for your father hath franck and
freely giuen me his daughter *Francke*. 5

Fran. I, by my troth, *Tom*; thou hast my
good will too, for I thanke God I longed for
a husband, and, would I might neuer stir, for
one his name was *Tom*.

Delia. Why, sister, now you haue your
wish. 11

Ciu. You say very true, sister *Delia*: and
I prethee call me nothing but *Tom* and ile call
thee sweetheart, and *Franck*: will it not doe
well, sister *Delia*? 15

Delia. It will doe very well with both of you.

Fran. But, *Tom*, must I goe as I doe now
when I am married?

Ciu. No, *Francke*, ile haue thee goe like
a Citizen

In a gar'd gowne, and a French-hood. 20

175-7 *Prose Q, Ff*: dir. after *London*, promising *M*
176 And straight prevent *M* 179 *Deptford-strand*
M 182 *Deptford M* Act III. etc. add. *M* 9
his] whose *M*

Fran. By my troth, that will be excellent
indeed.

Delia. Brother, maintaine your wife to
your estate:

Apparell you your selfe like to your father,
And let her goe like to your ancient mother.
He sparing got his wealth, left it to you; 25
Brother, take heed of pride, (it) soone bids
thrift adue.

Ciu. So as my father and my mother went!
thats a iest indeed: why she went in a fringed
gowne, a single ruffe, and a white cap; and my
father in a mocado coat, a paire of red satten
sleeues, and a canuis backe. 31

Delia. And yet his wealth was all as much
as yours.

Ciu. My estate, my estate, I thank God, is
fortie pound a yere, in good leases and tene-
ments, besides twenty marke a yere at
cuckolds-hauen, and that comes to vs all by
inheritance. 37

Delia. That may, indeed, tis very fitly plyed.
I know not how it comes, but so it falles out,
That those whose fathers haue died wonderous
rich, 40

And tooke no pleasure but to gather wealth,
Thinking of little that they leaue behind
For them, they hope, will be of their like
minde,—

But (it) falles out contrary: forty yeares
sparing

Is scarce three seuen yeares spending,—neuer
caring 45
What will inshue, when all their coyne is
gone,

And all too late, then thrift is thought vpon:
Oft haue I heard, that pride and ryot kist,
And then repentance cryes, 'for had I wist.'

Ciu. You say well, sister *Delia*, you say
well: but I meane to liue within my boundes:
for looke you, I haue set downe my rest thus
farre, but to maintaine my wife in her french-
hood, and her coach, keepe a couple of geld-
ings, and a brace of gray hounds, and this is
all ile doe. 56

Delia. And youle do this with fortie pound
a yere?

Ciu. I, and a better penny, sister.

Fran. Sister, you forget that at cuckolds-
hauen. 60

Ciu. By my troath, well remembred,
Francke;

Ile giue thee that to buy thee pinnes.

Delia. Keepe you the rest for points:—alas
the day,

26 it soon *M*: some *Q, Ff* take heed; pride soon
Haz. 44 it add. *M*

Fooles shall haue wealth, tho all the world
say nay:

Come, brother, will you in? dinner staies for
vs. 65

Ciu. I, good sister, with all my heart.

Fran. I, by my troath, *Tom*, for I haue a
good stomacke.

Ciu. And I the like, sweet *Francke*. No,
sister, doe not thinke ile goe beyond my
boundes. 71

Delia. God grant you may not.

[*Exit Omnes.*]

(SCENE II. *London. The street before young
Flowerdale's house.*)

*Enter young Flowerdale and his father,
with ioyles in their handes.*

Flow. Syrrha *Kyt*, tarrie thou there, I haue
spied syr *Lancelot*, and old *Weathercocke* com-
ming this way; they are hard at hand. I will
by no meanes be spoken withall.

Fath. Ile warrant you; goe, get you in. 5

Enter Lancelot and Weathercocke.

Lance. Now, my honest friend, thou doest
belong to maister *Flowerdale*?

Fath. I doe, syr.

Lance. Is he within, my good fellow?

Fath. No, syr, he is not within. 10

Lance. I prethee, if he be within, let me
speake with him.

Fath. Syr, to tell you true, my maister is
within, but indeed would not be spoke withall:
there be some tearmes that stands vpon his
reputation, therefore he will not admit any
conference till he hath shooke them off. 17

Lance. I prethee tell him his verie good
friend, syr *Lancelot Spurcocke*, intreates to
speake with him. 20

Fath. By my troath, syr, if you come to
take vp the matter betwene my maister and
the *Deuen-shyre* man, you doe but beguile
your hopes, and loose your labour. 24

Lance. Honest friend, I haue not any such
thing to him; I come to speake with him about
other matters.

Fath. For my maister, syr, hath set down
his resolution, either to redeeme his honour,
or leaue his life behind him. 30

Lance. My friend, I doe not know any
quarrell, touching thy maister or any other
person: my businesse is of a different nature
to him, and I prethee so tell him. 34

Fath. For howsoeuer the *Deuenshire* man

is, my maisters mind is bloody: thats a round O,
And therefore, syr, intreatie is but vaine:

Lance. I haue no such thing to him, I tell
thee once againe.

Fath. I will then so signifie to him.

[*Exit Father.*]

Lance. A, syrrha, I see this matter is hotly
carried, 40

But ile labour to dissuade him from it.—

Enter Flowerdale.

Good morrow, maister *Flowerdale*.

Flow. Good morrow, good syr *Lancelot*;
good morrowe, maister *Weathercocke*. By my
troath, gentlemen, I haue bene a readinge ouer
Nick Matchiuill; I find him good to be known,
not to be followed: a pestilent humane fellow.
I haue made certaine anations of him such
as they be.—And how ist syr *Lancelot*? ha?
how ist? A mad world, men cannot liue quiet
in it. 51

Lance. Maister *Flowerdale*, I doe vnder-
stand there is

Some iarre betwene the *Deuen-shyre* man
and you.

Fath. They, syr? they are good friends as
can be.

Flow. Who? maister *Oliuer* and I? as good
friends as can be. 55

Lance. It is a kind of safetie in you to denie
it, and a generous silence, which too few are
indued withall: But, syr, such a thing I heare,
and I could wish it otherwise. 59

Flow. No such thing, syr *Lancelot*, a my
reputation, as I am an honest man.

Lance. Now I doe beleeeue you, then, if you
doe

Ingage your reputation there is none. 63

Flow. Nay, I doe not ingage my reputation
there is not. You shall not bind me to any
condition of hardnesse: but if there be any
thing betwene vs, then there is; if there be
not, then there is not: be or be not, all is one.

Lance. I doe perceiue by this, that there is
something betwene you, and I am very sorie
for it. 71

Flow. You may be deceiued, syr *Lancelot*.
The *Italian* hath a pretie saying, *Questo*—
I haue forgot it too, tis out of my head, but
in my translation, ift hold, thus: (If) thou hast
a friend, keepe him; if a foe, trip him. 76

Lance. Come, I doe see by this there is
somewhat betwene you, and, before God, I
could wish it other wise. 79

37 intreaties is *F I*: intreaties are *F 2* 43-51

Vers *Q*, *Ff* 52-3 *Die*, after iarre *Q*, *F I*: *Prose F 2*

56-122 bawle *Vers* *Q*, *F I* 60 a) at *R*: on *M* 64-8

Vers *Q*, *Ff* 65 is none *Molt*. 75 If add, *M*

Flow. Well what is betweene vs can hardly be altered. *Syr Lancelot*, I am to ride forth to morrow. That way which I must ride, no man must denie me the Sunne; I would not by any particular man be denied common and generall passage. If any one saith, *Flowerdale*, thou passest not this way: my answere is, I must either on or returne, but returne is not my word, I must on: if I cannot, then, make my way, nature hath done the last for me, and thers the fine. 90

Lance. Maister *Flowerdale*, every man hath one tongue, and two eares: nature, in her building, is a most curious worke-maister.

Flow. That is as much (as) to say, a man should heare more then he should speake. 95

Lance. You say true, and indeed I have heard more then at this time I will speake.

Flow. You say well.

Lance. Slanders are more common then troathes, maister *Flowerdale*: but prooffe is the rule for both. 101

Flow. You say true; what doe you call him hath it there in his third canton.

Lance. I haue heard you haue bin wild: I haue beleued it. 105

Flow. Twas fit, twas necessarie.

Lance. But I haue seene somewhat of late in you, that hath confirmed in me an opinion of goodnesse toward you. 109

Flow. Yfaith, syr, I am shure I neuer did you harme: some good I haue done, either to you or yours, I am shure you know not; neither is it my will you should.

Lance. I, your will, syr. 114

Flow. I, my will, syr? sfoot, doe you know ought of my will? Begod, and you doe, syr, I am abused.

Lance. Goe, maister *Flowerdale*; what I know, I know: and know you thus much out of my knowledge, that I truly loue you. For my daughter, she's yours. And if you like a marriage better then a brawle, all quirks of reputation set aside, goe with me presently: And where you should fight a bloodie battle, you shall be married to a louely Ladie. 125

Flow. Nay but, syr *Lancelot*—

Lance. If you will not imbrace my offer, yet assure your self thus much, I will haue order to hinder your incounter. 129

Flow. Nay, but heare me, syr *Lancelot*.

Lance. Nay, stand not you vpon imputatiue honour. Tis meereely vnsound, vnprofitable, and idle inferences: your busines is to wedde my daughter, therefore giue me your present

word to doe it. Ile goe and prouide the maid, therefore giue mee your present resolution, either now or neuer. 137

Flow. Will you so put me too it?

Lance. I, afore God, either take me now, or take me neuer. Else what I thought should be our match, shal be our parting; so fare you well for euer. 142

Flow. Stay: fall out what may fall, my loue is about all: I will come.

Lance. I expect you, and so fare you well. [Exit syr *Lancelot*.]

Fath. Now, syr, how shall we doe for wedding apparell? 146

Flow. By the masse, thats true: now helpe, *Kyt*;

The marriage ended, wee le make amendes for all.

Fath. Well, no more, prepare you for your bride,

We will not want for cloathes, what so ere betide. 150

Flow. And thou shalt see, when once I haue my dower,

In mirth wee le spend full many a merry hower:

As for this wench I not regard a pin,
It is her gold must bring my pleasures in. 154
(Exit.)

Fath. Ist possible, he hath his second liuing, Forsaking God, himselfe to the diuel giuing? But that I knew his mother firme and chast, My heart would say my hed she had disgrast: Else would I sweare he neuer was my sonne, But her faire mind so fowle a deed did shun.

Enter Vnckle.

Vnck. How now, brother, how doe you find your sonne? 161

Fath. O brother, heedlesse as a libertine, Euen growne a maister in the schoole of vice,

One that doth nothing but inuent descent:
For all the day he humours vp and downe, 165
How he the next day might deceiue his friend.
He thinks of nothing but the present time:

For one groat readie downe, heele pay a shilling,

But then the lender must needes stay for it.
When I was young, I had the scope of youth,
Both wild, and wanton, carelesse and desperate: 171

But such mad straines as hee's possest withall,
I thought it wonder for to dreame vpon.

94 as add. F 2 121 She's Ff: She Q 133 idle: Inferences Q 139 Prefix Luce Q, Ff 149 Well, well M 150 whate'er M S. D. add. M 159, 160 trs. S 166 may Haz.

Vnck. I told you so, but you would not beleuee it.

Fath. Well, I haue found it, but one thing comforts me: 175

Brother, to morrow hee's to be married
To beautious *Luce*, syr *Lancelot Spurcocks*
daughter.

Vnck. Ist possible?

Fath. Tis true, and thus I meane to curbe him. 179

This day, brother, I will you shall arrest him:
If any thing will tame him, it must be that,
For he is ranck in mischiefe, chained to a life,
That will increase his shame, and kill his wife.

Vnck. What, arrest him on his wedding day? 184

That were vnchristian, and an vn humane part:
How many couple euen for that very day
Hath purchast 7 yeares sorrow afterward?
Forbeare him then to day, doe it to morrow,
And this day mingle not his ioy with sorrow.

Fath. Brother, ile haue it done this very day, 190

And in the viewe of all, as he comes from Church:

Doe but obserue the course that he will take.
Vpon my life he will forswear the debt:
And for weele haue the summe shall not be slight,

Say that he owes you neere three thousand pound: 195

Good brother, let (it) be done immediately.

Vnck. Well, seeing you will haue it so,
Brother, ile doot, and straitte prouide the Sheriffe.

Fath. So, brother, by this meanes shall we perceiue

What syr *Lancelot* in this pinch will do: 200
And how his wife doth stand affected too him—
Her loue will then be tried to the vttermost—
And all the rest of them. Brother, what I will doo,
Shall harme him much, and much auaille him too. [Exit.

(SCENE III. A high road near London.

Enter Oliver; afterwards sir Arthur Greenshield.)

Oly. Cham asured thick be the place, that the scoundrell appointed to meet me: if a come, zo: if a come not, zo. And che war awise, he should make a coystrell an vs, ched

177 Lancelots Spurcocks Q 180 This] That Haz.
Brother, that day Mal. 185 were] were an M
and an] and M 188 him] it R 189 this] that Haz.
190 this] the Haz. 196 it add. F1 Scene III. etc. add. M 1-8 Verse Q, Ff

vese him, and che vang him in hand; che would hoyst him, and giue it him too and againe, zo chud: Who bin a there? syr *Arthur*! chil staie aside. 8

Ar. I haue dogd the Deuen-shyre man into the field,

For feare of any harme that should befall him:

I had an inckling of that yesternight,
That *Flowerdale* and he should meet this morning:

Tho, of my soule, *Oliuer* feares him not,
Yet for ide see faire play on either side, 14

Made me to come, to see their valours tride.
God morrow to maister *Oliuer*.

Oli. God an good morrow.

Ar. What, maister *Oliuer*, are you angry?

Oli. Why an it be, tyt and greuen you?

Ar. Not me at all, syr, but I imagine by Your being here thus armed, you stay for some 21

That you should fight withall.

Oli. Why, and he doe, che would not dezire you to take his part.

Ar. No, by my troath, I thinke you need it not,

For he you looke for, I thinke meanes not to come. 25

Oli. No, & che war ashure a that, ched averse him in another place.

[Enter *Daffidill*.

Daff. O syr *Arthur*, maister *Oliuer*, aye me!

Your loue, and yours, and mine, sweet mistresse *Luce*,

This morne is married to young *Flowerdale*.

Ar. Married to *Flowerdale*! tis impossible.

Oli. Married, man, che hope thou doest but iest, 31

To make an a volowten meryment of it.

Daf. O, tis too true. Here comes his Vncle.

Enter Flowerdale (Junior), Sheriffe, Officers.

Vncle. God morrow, sir *Arthur*, good morrow, M(aister) *Oliuer*.

Oly. God and good morne, M(aister) *Flowerdale*. I pray you tellen vs, 35

Is your scoundrell kinsman married?

Vncle. M(aister) *Oliuer*, call him what you will, but hee is maryed to sir *Launcelots* daughter here.

Arth. Vnto her? 40

5 ched vang M 20-2 Dir. after imagine armed Q, Ff 32 make a vlowten M 37 Prefix Vncle M: Arth. Q, Ff 40 Prefix Arth. M: Vncle Q, Ff Vnto M: Sir Arthur, vnto Q, Ff

Oly. I, ha the olde vellow zarued me thick tricke?

Why, man, he was a promise, chil chud a had her.

Is a zitch a voxē? chill looke to his water, che vor him.

Vncle. The musicke playes, they are coming from the Church. Sheriffe, doe your Office: fellowes, stand stoutly too it. 46

Enter all to the Wedding.

Oly. God giue you ioy, as the old zaid Prouerbe is, and some zorrow among. You met vs well, did you not? 49

Lance. Nay, be not angry, sir, the fault is in me. I haue done all the wrong, kept him from coming to the field to you, as I might, sir, for I am a Iustice, and sworne to keepe the peace. 54

Wea. I, marry, is he, sir, a very Iustice, and sworne to keepe the peace: you must not disturbe the weddings.

Lanc. Nay, neuer frowne nor storme, sir; if you doe,

Ile haue an order taken for you.

Oly. Well, Well, chill be quiet. 60

Wea. M(aister) *Flowerdale!* sir *Lancelot*, looke you who here is. M(aister) *Flowerdale*.

Lanc. M(aister) *Flowerdale*, welcome with all my heart.

Flow. *Vncle*, this is she, yfaith: Maister Vnder-sheriffe, 65

Arrest me? at whose sute? draw, *Kit*.

Vnc. At my sute, sir.

Lance. Why, whats the matter M(aister) *Flowerdale*? 69

Vnc. This is the matter, sir: this vnthrifft here hath cozened you, and hath had of me, in seuerall summes, three thousand pound.

Flow. Why, *Vncle*, *Vncle*.

Vnck. Cousen, cousen, you haue vnckled me, and if you be not staid, youle proue a cousoner vnto all that know you. 76

Lance. Why, syr, suppose he be to you in debt

Ten thousand pound, his state to me appeare(s),

To be at least three thousand by the yeare.

Vnck. O syr, I was too late informed of that plot, 80

How that he went about to cousen you:

And formde a will, and sent it

To your good friend there, maister *Weather-cocke*,

In which was nothing true, but brags and lyes.

Lance. Ha, hath he not such Lordships, landes, and shippes? 86

Vnck. Not worth a groat, not worth a halfepeenie, he.

Lance. I pray, tell vs true, be plaine, young *Flowerdale*? 90

Flow. My vnckle here's mad, and disposed to do me wrong, but heer's my man, an honest fellow, by the lord, and of good credit, knowes all is true.

Fath. Not I, syr. 95
I am too old to lye, I rather know

You forge a will, where euery line you writ, You studied where to coate your landes might lye.

Wea. And I prethee, where be they, honest friend? 100

Fath. Yfaith, no where, syr, for he hath none at all,

Wea. Benedicite, we are ore wretched, I beleue.

Lance. I am cousend, and my hopefult child vndone. 106

Flow. You are not cousend, nor is she vndone. They slaunder me, by this light they slander me: Looke you, my vnckle heres an vsurer, and would vndoe me, but ile stand in law; do you but baile me, you shal do no more: you, brother *Ciuet*, and maister *Weather-cocke*, doe but baile me, and let me haue my marriage mony paid me, and weele ride downe, and there your owne eyes shall see, how my poore tenants there wil welcome me. You shall but baile me, you shall doe no more, and, you greedy gnat, their baile will serue.

Vnck. I, syr, ile aske no better baile. 119

Lance. No, syr, you shall not take my baile, nor his,

Nor my sonne *Ciuet*s; ile not be cheated, I. Shreeue, take your prisoner, ile not deale with him:

Let's *Vncle* make false dice with his false bones,

I will not haue to doe with him: mocked, guld, & wrongd! 124

Come, *Girle*, though it be late, it falls out well, Thou shalt not liue with him in beggers hell.

Luc. He is my husband, & hie heauen doth know,

With that vnwillingnesse I went to Church, But you inforced me, you compelled me too it:

42 chil]? che- 55, 61 *Wea.* *Ff*: *Whe.* *Q* 70-2
Verse *Q*, *Ff* 78 appeare *Q*: appears *Ff* 82, 83
End good, was *Q*, *Ff*

91 here's] here *Q* 91-4 Verse *Q*, *Ff* 98 quote
F 2, etc. 99 they *M*: thy *Q*, *Ff* 100 friends *Q*, *Ff*
103 ore reached *Ff* 107-18 Verse *Q*, etc. 118 you]
you, you conj. *St.* gnats *St.* 123 Let's] Let his *M*

The holy Church-man pronounced these words
but now: 130
I must not leaue my husband in distresse.
Now I must comfort him, not goe with you.
Lanc. Comfort a cozoner? on my curse,
forsake him.
Luce. This day you caused me on your
curse to take him: 134
Doe not, I pray, my greiued soule oppresse,
God knowes my heart doth bleed at his
distresse.
Lanc. O M(aister) *Weathercock*,
I must confesse I forced her to this match,
Led with opinion his false will was true. 139
Wea. A, he hath ouer-reached me too.
Lanc. She might haue liued like *Delia*, in
a happie Virgins state.
Delia. Father, be patient, sorrow comes
too late.
Lance. And on her knees she begd & did
entreat,
If she must needes taste a sad marriage life,
She craued to be sir *Arthur Greene-shields*
wife. 145
Ar. You haue done her & me the greater
wrong.
Lanc. O, take her yet.
Arthur. Not I.
Lanc. Or, M(aister) *Oliuer*, accept my
child, 150
And halfe my wealth is yours.
Oly. No, sir, chil breake no Lawes.
Luce. Neuer feare, she will not trouble you.
Delia. Yet, sister, in this passion,
Doe not runne headlong to confusion. 155
You may affect him, though not follow him.
Frank. Doe, sister; hang him, let him goe.
Wea. Doe, faith, Mistresse *Luce*, leaue him.
Luc. You are three grosse fooles, let me
alone. 159
I sweare ile liue with him in all (his) mone.
Oly. But an he haue his legges at libertie,
Cham auerd hee will neuer liue with you.
Art. I, but hee is now in hucksters handling
for running away.
Lanc. Huswife, you heare how you and
I am wrongd,
And if you will redresse it yet you may: 165
But if you stand on tearmes to follow him,
Neuer come neere my sight nor looke on
me,
Call me not father, looke not for a groat,
For all thy portion I wil this day giue
Vnto thy syster *Frances*. 170

130 Church-man] church *Haz.* 137-8 *One Vine*
Q. F. I 150 except *Q* 154-6 *Prose Q. Fy* 159
let] pray let *M* 160 his *add. R* 164 am] are *R*

Fran. How say you to that, *Tom*, I shall
haue a good deale. Besides ile be a good
wife: and a good wife is a good thing, I can
tell. 174
Ciu. Peace *Franck*, I would be sorry to see
thy sister cast away, as I am a Gentleman.
Lance. What, are you yet resolu'd?
Luc. Yes, I am resolu'd.
Lanc. Come then, away; or now, or neuer,
come.
Luc. This way I turne, goe you vnto your
feast, 180
And I to weepe, that am with grieffe opprest.
Lanc. For euer flie my sight: come, gentle-
men,
Lets in, ile helpe you to far better wiues then
her.
Delia, vpon my blessing talke not too her.
Bace Baggage, in such hast to beggery? 185
Vnc. Sheriffe, take your prisoner to your
charge.
Flo. Vncle, be-god you haue vsd me very
hardly,
By my troth, vpon my wedding day.
[Exit all (but *Luce*,) yong *Flowerdale*, his
father, *Vncle*, *Sheriffe*, and *Officers*.
Luc. O M(aister) *Flowerdale*, but heare me
speake; 189
Stay but a little while, good M(aister) *Sheriffe*,
If not for him, for my sake pittie him:
Good syr, stop not your eares at my complaint,
My voyce growes weake, for womens words
are faint.
Flow. Looke you, *Vncle*, she kneeles to you.
Vnc. Faire maid, for you, I loue you with
my heart, 195
And greeue, sweet soule, thy fortune is so bad,
That thou shouldst match with such a grace-
lesse Youth.
Go to thy father, thinke not vpon him,
Whom hell hath marked to be the sonne of
shame.
Luc. Impute his wildnesse, syr, vnto his
youth, 200
And thinke that now is the time he doth
repent:
Alas, what good or gayne can you receiue,
To imprison him that nothing hath to pay?
And where nought is, the king doth lose his
due:
O, pittie him, as God shall pittie you. 205
Vnc. Ladie, I know his humours all too
well,
And nothing in the world can doe him good,
But miserie it selfe to chaine him with.

171-6 *Verses Q. Fy* 187-8 *Prose M* *S. D.* all:
yong *Q. Fy*: all but *Luce*, yong *R*

Luc. Say that your debts were paid, then
is he free?

Vnc. I, virgin, that being answered, I haue
done, 210

But to him that is all as impossible,
As I to scale the hye Piramydies.

Sheriffe, take your prisoner: Maiden, fare
thee well.

Luc. O goe not yet, good M(aister) Flower-
dale:

Take my word for the debt, my word, my
bond. 215

Flow. I, by God, *Vncle*, and my bond too.

Luc. Alas, I nere ought nothing but I paid
it,

And I can worke; alas, he can doe nothing:
I haue some friends perhaps will pittie me,
His chiefest friends doe seeke his miserie. 220

All that I can or beg, get, or receiue,
Shall be for you: O doe not turne away;

Me thinks, within, a face so reuerent,
So well experienced in this tottering world,

Should haue some feeling of a maidens griefe:
For my sake, his fathers, and your brothers
sake, 226

I, for your soules sake that doth hope for ioy,
Pittie my state: do not two soules destroy.

Vnc. Faire maid, stand vp; not in regard
of him,

But in pittie of thy haplesse choise, 230
I doe release him. M(aister) Sheriffe, I thanke
you:

And, officers, there is for you to drinke.
Here, maide, take this monie; there is a 100
Angels:

And for I will be sure he shall not haue it,
Here, *Kester*, take it you, and vse it sparingly,
But let not her haue any want at all. 236

Dry your eyes, Neece, doe not too much
lament

For him, whose life hath beene in ryot
spent:

If well he vseth thee, he gets him friends,
If ill, a shamefull end on him depends. 240

[*Exit Vncle.*]

Flow. A plague goe with you for an old
fornicator. Come, *Kyt*, the monie; come,
honest *Kyt*.

Fath. Nay, by my faith, sir, you shall
pardon me. 245

Flow. And why, sir, pardon you? giue me
the mony, you old Rascall, or I shall make
you.

Luc. Pray, hold your hands: giue it him,
honest friend. 250

Fath. If you be so content, with all my
heart.

Flow. Content, syr: sblood, shee shall be
content, whether she will or no. A rattle
baby come to follow me! Goe, get you gone to
the greasie chuffe your father, bring me your
dowrie, or neuer looke on me. 257

Fath. Syr, she hath forsooke her father and
all her friends for you.

Flow. Hang thee, her friends and father
altogether.

Fath. Yet part with something to prouide
her lodging. 263

Flow. Yes, I meane to part with her and you,
but if I part with one Angel, hang me at a
poste. Ile rather throwe them at a cast at
Dice, as I haue done a thousand of their
fellowes. 268

Fath. Nay, then, I will be plaine, degenerate
boy.

Thou hadst a Father would haue beene
a shamed. 270

Flow. My father was an Asse, an old Asse.

Fath. Thy father? proud, lycentious vil-
laine!

What, are you at your foyles? ile foyle with
you.

Luc. Good sir, forbear him.

Fath. Did not this whining woman hang
on me, 275

Ide teach thee what it was to abuse thy father:
Goe! hang, beg, starue, dice, game, that when
all is gone,

Thou maist after dispaire and hang thy selfe.

Luc. O, doe not curse him.

Fath. I doe not curse him, and to pray for
him were vaine; 280

It grieues me that he beares his fathers name.

Flow. Well, you old rascall, I shall meet
with you. Syrrha, get you gone; I will not
strip the liuery ouer your eares, because you
paid for it: but do not vse my name, syrrha,
doe you heare? looke you doe not vse my
name, you were best. 287

Fath. Pay me the twentieth pound, then, that
I lent you,

Or giue me securitie, when I may haue it.

Flow. Ile pay thee not a penny, and for
securitie, ile giue thee none. Minckins, looke
you doe not follow me, looke you doe not:
If you doe, begger, I shall slit your nose. 293

Luc. Alas, what shall I doe?

209 debt *M* 223 within a *Q*, *Ff*: that one with
S reverend *R*, etc. 225 haue] live *conj*. *St*.
238 royot *Q* 241-3, 246-8 Verse *Q*, *Ff* 247 shall]
will *R*

253-7 Verse *Q*, *Ff* 266 cast of *F* 2, etc. 272
proud] thou proud *M* 281 Fathers *Ff*: father *Q*
282-7 Verse *Q*, *Ff* 290-3 Verse *Q*, etc.

Flow. Why, turne whore, thats a good trade, 295
And so perhaps ile see thee now and then.

[Exit Flowerdale.]

Luce. Alas the day that euer I was borne.
Fath. Sweete mistresse, doe not weepe, ile stickte to you.

Luce. Alas, my friend, I know not what to do.

My father and my friends, they haue despised me: 300

And I, a wretched maid, thus cast away,
Knowes neither where to goe, nor what to say.

Fath. It grieues me at the soule, to see her teares

Thus staine the crimson roses of her cheekes.—

Lady, take comfort, doe not mourne in vaine.
I haue a little liuing in this towne, 306

The which I thinke comes to a hundred pound,
All that and more shall be at your dispose.

Ile strait goe helpe you to some strange disguise,

And place you in a seruice in this towne, 310
Where you shal know all, yet your selfe vnknowne:

Come, greeue no more, where no helpe can be had,

Weepe not for him that is more worse then bad.

Luce. I thanke you, syr. (Exeunt.)

(ACT IV. SCENE I. A room in Sir Lancelot Spurcock's house in Kent.)

Enter syr Lancelot, maister Weathercocke and them.

Oli. Well, cha a bin zerued many a sluttish trickes, but such a lerripoope as thick ych was nere a sarued.

Lance. Son *Ciu*et, daughter *Frances*, beare with me,

You see how I am pressed downe with inward grieffe, 5

About that lucklesse gyrl, your sister *Luce*:
But tis fallen out with me,

As with many families beside,
They are most vnhappy, that are most be-
loured. 9

Ciu. Father, tis so, tis euen fallen out so,
but what remedie? set hand to your heart,
and let it passe. Here is your daughter

Frances and I, and wee le not say, wee le bring
forth as wittie children, but as prettie children

as euer she was: tho she had the pricke and

praise for a prettie wench. But, father, done
is the mouse: youle come? 17

Lance. I, sonne *Ciu*et, ile come.

Ciu. And you, maister *Oli*uer?

Oli. I, for che a vext out this veast, chill
see if a gan make a better veast there. 21

Ciu. And you, syr *Arthur*?

Ar. I, syr, although my heart be full,

Ile be a partner at your wedding feast.

Ciu. And welcome all indeed, and welcome:
come, *Fran*cke are you readie? 26

Fran. Ieshue, how hastie these husbands
are. I pray, father, pray to God to blesse me.

Lance. God blesse thee, and I doe: God
make thee wise,

Send you both ioy: I wish it with wet eyes. 30

Fran. But, Father, shall not my sister *Delia*
goe along with vs? She is excellent good at
cookery and such things.

Lance. Yes, mary, shall she: *Delia*, make
you ready. 35

Deli. I am ready, syr. I will first goe to
Greene-witch, from thence to my cousen
*Chester*feelds, and so to *London*.

Ciu. It shall suffice, good sister *Delia*, it
shall suffice, but faile vs not, good sister; giue
order to cookes, and others, for I would not
haue my sweet *Fran*cke to soyle her fingers.

Fran. No, by my troath, not I: a gentle-
woman, and a married gentlewoman too, to
be companions to cookes and kitchin-boyes!
not I, yfaith: I scorne that. 46

Ciu. Why, I doe not meane thou shalt,
sweete heart; thou seest I doe not goe about it:
well farewell too you. Gods pittie, M(aister)
*Weather*cocke, we shal haue your company
too? 51

Wea. With all my heart, for I loue good
cheare.

Ciu. Well, God be with you all. Come,
*Fran*cke. 54

Fran. God be with you, father, God be with
you, syr *Arthur*, Maister *Oli*uer, and maister
*Weather*cocke, sister, God be with you all:
God be with you, father, God be with you
euery one. 59

(Exeunt *Ciu*et and *Frances*.)

Wea. Why, how now, syr *Arthur*? all a
mort? maister *Oli*uer, how now man?

Cheerely, syr *Lancel*ot, and merily say,

Who can hold that will away?

Lance. I, shee is gone indeed, poore girle,
vndone,

But when theyle be selfewilled; children must
smart.

302 Know M S. D. add. R Act IV. etc. add.
M 7-8 One line Q, Ff: div. after out M 10-17
Verse Q, etc., seven lines Q, Ff: eight lines M

31-51 Verse Q, Ff 45 companion F 2, etc. 49
too: You Q, Ff S. D. add. M

Ar. But, syr, that she is wronged, you are
the chiefest cause, 65
Therefore tis reason, you redresse her wrong.

Wea. Indeed you must, syr *Lancelot*, you
must.

Lance. Must? who can compell me,
maister *Weathercock*?

I hope I may doe what I list.

Wea. I grant you may, you may doe what
you list. 70

Oli. Nay, but and you be well euisen, it
were not good by this vrampolnesse, and
vrowardnesse, to cast away as pretty a dows-
sabell, as ani should chance to see in a
Sommers day. Chil tell you what chall doe.
Chil goe spye vp and downe the towne, and
see if I can heare any tale or tydings of her,
and take her away from thicke a messell, vor
cham ashured, heele but bring her to the
spoil. And so var you well; we shall meete
at your sonne *Ciuets*. 81

Lance. I thanke you, syr, I take it very
kindly.

Arth. To find her out, ile spend my dearest
blood:

So well I loued her, to affect her good.

[Exit both.

Lance. O maister *Weathercocke*, 85
What hap had I, to force my daughter
From maister *Oliuer*, and this good knight
To one that hath no goodnesse in his thought?

Wea. Ill lucke, but what remedie?

Lance. Yes, I haue almost deuised a
remedy: 90

Young *Flowerdale* is shure a prisoner.

Wea. Shure, nothing more shure.

Lance. And yet perhaps his Vnckle hath
released him.

Wea. It may be very like, no doubt he
hath.

Lance. Well, if he be in prison, ile haue
warrants 95

To tache my daughter till the lawe be tried,
For I will shue him vpon couzonage.

Wea. Mary, may you, and ouerthrow him
too.

Lance. Nay, thats not so, I may chance
be scott,

And sentence past with him. 100

Wea. Beleeue me, so he may, therefore
take heede.

Lance. Well howsoeuer, yet I will haue
warrants;

In prison, or at libertie, alls one:

You will helpe to serue them, maister *Weather-
cocke*? [Exit Omnes.]

(SCENE II. *A street in London.*)

Enter Flowerdale.

Flow. A plague of the diuell! the diuell
take the dyce! The dyce, and the diuell, and
his damme goe together. Of all my hundred
golden angels, I haue not left me one denier:
A poxe of *come a fue*, what shall I doe? I can
borrow no more of my credit: there's not any
of my acquaintance, man, nor boy, but I haue
borrowed more or lesse off: I would I knewe
where to take a good purse, and goe cleare
away; by this light, ile venture for it. Gods
lid, my sister *Delia*! Ile rob her, by this hand.

Enter Delia, and Artichoake.

Deli. I prethee, *Artichoake*, goe not so fast:
The weather is hot, and I am something
wearie. 13

Arti. Nay, I warrant you, mistresse *Delia*,
ile not tire you with leading; weele goe an
extreame moderate pace.

Flow. Stand, deliuer your purse.

Arti. O lord, theeues, theeues!

[Exit *Artichoake*.

Flow. Come, come, your purse, ladie, your
purse.

Deli. That voice I haue heard often before
this time. 20

What, brother *Flowerdale* become a theefe?

Flow. I, a plague ont, I thanke your father.
But, sister, come, your mony, come! What,
The world must find me, I am borne to lue,
Tis not a sinne to steale, when none will giue.

Deli. O God, is all grace banisht from thy
heart? 26

Thinke of the shame that doth attend this
fact.

Flow. Shame me no shames; come, giue me
your purse.

Ile bind you, sister, least I faire the worse.

Deli. No, bind me not: hold, there is all I
haue, 30

And would that mony would redeeme thy
shame.

Enter Oliuer, syr Arthur, and Artichoake.

Arti. Theeues, theeues, theeues!

Oli. Theeues? where, man? why, how now
mistresse *Delia*?

Ha you a liked to bin a robbed?

71 auisen M 71-81 Verse Q, Ff 74 ani pr. ed.:
am Q, Ff: an M 77 dydings Q: tidings Ff, etc.
83 Prefix Arty Q: Arti Ff 84 S. D. follows 83 Q, Ff
85-8 Dir. I, Oliver, goodness M 101 hej it M

Delia. No, maister *Oliuer*; tis maister *Flowerdale*, hee did but iest with me. 36

Oli. How, *Flowerdale*, that scoundrell? sirrha, you meten vs well: vang thee that.

Flow. Well, sir, ile not meddle with you, because I haue a charge. 40

Deli. Here, brother *Flowerdale*, ile lend you this same mony.

Flow. I thanke you, sister.

Oli. I wad you were ysplit, and you let the mezell haue a penny. But since you cannot keepe it, chil keepe it my selfe. 46

Ar. Tis pittie to releuee him in this sort, Who makes a triumphant life his daily sport.

Delia. Brother, you see how all men censure you,

Farewell, and I pray God amend your life. 50

Oly. Come, chill bring you along, and you safe enough from twentie such scoundrells as thicke a one is. Farewell and be hanged, zyrrrha, as I thinke so thou wilt be shortly. Come, syr *Arthur*. 55

[Exit all but *Flowerdale*.]

Flow. A plague goe with you for a karsie rascall.

This Deuenshyre man, I thinke, is made all of porke,

His hands made onely for to heaue vp packs:

His hart as fat and big as his face;

As differing far from all braue gallant minds

As I to serue the hogges, and drinke with hindes, 61

As I am very neere now. Well, what remedie? When mony, meanes, and friends doe growe so small,

Then farewell life, and ther's an end of all.

[Exit.]

<SCENE III. Another street. Before *Civet's* house.>

Enter *Father*, *Luce* like a Dutch Frow, *Cinet*, and his wife *mistresse Frances*.

Ciu. By my troath, god a mercie for this, good *Christopher*, I thanke thee for my maide, I like her very well. How doest thou like her, *Frances*? 4

Fran. In good sadnesse, *Tom*, very well, excellent well; she speakes so prettily.—I pray whats your name?

Luce. My name, forsooth, be called *Tanikin*. 9

Fran. By my troath, a fine name. O *Tanikin*, you are excellent for dressing ones head a newe fashion.

48 *trompant conj. M* 49 *consure Q* 64 *S. D.*
Exit omnes Q Scene III. etc. add. M 1-7 Verse
Q. F. I 11 one Q, F. I

Luce. Me sall doe euery ting about da head.

Ciu. What countriwoman is she, *Kester*?

Fath. A dutch woman, sir. 15

Ciu. Why then she is outlandish, is she not?

Fath. I, Syr, she is.

Fran. O, then, thou canst tell how to helpe mee to cheekes and eares? 20

Luce. Yes, mistresse, verie vell.

Fath. Cheekes and eares! why, mistresse *Frances*, want you cheekes and eares? me thinkes you haue very faire ones.

Fran. Thou art a foole indeed. *Tom*, thou knowest what I meane. 26

Ciu. I, I, *Kester*, tis such as they weare a their heads. I prethee, *Kit*, haue her in, and shewe her my house.

Fath. I will, sir. Come, *Tanikin*. 30

Fran. O *Tom*, you haue not bussed me to day, *Tom*.

Ciu. No, *Frances*, we must not kisse afore folkes. God saue me, *Francke*,

Enter *Delia*, and *Artichoake*.

See yonder my sister *Delia* is come. Welcome, good sister. 36

Fran. Welcome, good sister, how do you like the tier of my head?

Delia. Very well, sister.

Ciu. I am glad you're come, sister *Delia*, to giue order for supper; they will be here soone. 42

Arly. I, but if good luck had not serued, she had not bin here now: filching *Flowerdale* had like to peppord vs; but for maister *Oliuer*, we had bin robbed. 46

Deli. Peace, syrrrha, no more.

Fath. Robbed! by whom?

Arly. Marry, by none but by *Flowerdale*; he is turned theefe. 50

Ciu. By my faith, but that is not well; but God be praised for your escape. Will you draw neere, sister?

Fath. Syrrrha, come hither. Would *Flowerdale*, hee that was my maister, a robbed you? I prethee, tell me true. 56

Arly. Yes, yfaith, euen that *Flowerdale*, that was thy maister.

Fath. Hold thee, there is a French crowne, and speake no more of this. 60

Arly. Not I, not a word.—Now do I smell knauerie:

In euery purse *Flowerdale* takes, he is halfe: And giues me this to keepe counsell.—No, not a word I.

34 save my Ff 40-6 Verse Q, Ff 45 to haue
pepper'd M 63 No om. Ff, etc.

Fath. Why, God a mercy.

Fran. Sister, looke here, I haue a new Dutch maid, and she speakes so fine, it would doe your heart good. 67

Ciu. How doe you like her, sister?

Del. I like your maide well.

Ciu. Well, deare sister, will you draw neere, and giue directions for supper? guests will be here presently. 72

Delia. Yes, brother; leade the way; ile follow you.

[*Exit all but Delia and Luce.*

Harke you, Dutch frowe, a word.

Luce. Vat is your vill wit me?

Del. Sister *Luce*, tis not your broken language, 76

Nor this same habit, can disguise your face From I that know you: pray tell me, what meanes this?

Luce. Sister, I see you know me; yet be secret.

This borrowed shape, that I haue tane vpon me, 80

Is but to keepe my selfe a space vnknowne, Both from my father, and my nearest friendes, Vntill I see how time will bring to passe

The desperate course of maister *Flowerdale*.

Del. O hee is worse then bad, I prethee leaue him, 85

And let not once thy heart to thinke on him.

Luce. Do not perswade me once to such a thought.

Imagine yet, that he is worse then naught: Yet one houers time may all that ill vndo, That all his former life did run into. 90

Therefore kind sister doe not disclose my estate:

If ere his heart doth turne, tis nere too late.

Dely. Well, seeing no counsell can remoue your mind,

Ile not disclose you that art wilfull blinde.

Luc. *Delia*, I thank you. I now must please her eies, 95

My sister *Frances*, neither faire nor wise.

[*Exit Omnes.*

(ACT V. SCENE I. Scene before Civel's house.)

Enter Flowerdale solus.

Flo. On goes he that knowes no end of his iourney. I haue passed the very vtmost bounds of shifting, I haue no course now but to hang my selfe: I haue liued since yesterday

71 guests *F. 2, etc.*: guesse *Q. F. 1* 89 hour's *M*:
louers *Q. Fy*: good *R* Act V. *etc. add. M* 1-24
Verse *Q. Fy*

two a clocke of a spice-cake I had at a buriall: and for drinke, I got it at an Ale-house among Porters, such as will beare out a man, if he haue no mony indeede—I meane out of their companyes, for they are men of good carriage. Who comes heere? The two Conycatchers, that woon all my mony of me. Ile trie if thayle lend me any. 12

Enter Dicke and Rafe.

What, M(aister) *Richard*, how doe you? How doest thou, *Rafe*? By God, gentlemen, the world growes bare with me: will you do as much as lend me an Angel betweene you both. You know you won a hundred of me the other day. 18

Rafe. How, an Angel? God damb vs, if we lost not euery peny, within an houre after thou wert gone.

Flow. I prethy lend me so much as will pay for my supper. Ile pay you againe, as I am a Gentleman.

Rafe. I faith, we haue not a farthing, not a myte: 25

I wonder at it, M(aister) *Flowerdale*,

You will so carelesly vndo your selfe.

Why, you will loose more mony in an houre, Then any honest man spend in a yeare.

For shame, betake you to some honest Trade, And liue not thus so like a Vagabond. 31

[*Exit both.*

Flow. A Vagabond, indeed! more villaines you:

They gaue me counsell that first cozend me: Those Diuels first brought me to this I am,

And being thus, the first that doe me wrong. Well, yet I haue one friend left in store: 36

Not farre from hence there dwels a Cokatryce, One that I first put in a satten gowne,

And not a tooth that dwells within her head, But stands me at the least in 20. pound: 40

Her will I visite now my coyne is gone, And, as I take it, heere dwelles the Gentle-

woman.

What ho, is Mist(r)esse *Apricocke* within?

Enter Ruffyn.

Ruff. What sawsie Rascall is that which knocks so bold?

O, is it you? old spend-thrift, are you here? 45 One that is turned Cozoner about the towne:

My Mistresse saw you, and sends this word by me:

Either be packing quickly from the doore,

5 of] on *M* 25 haue] haue haue *Q* 29 spends
Ff. etc. 36 firind *Q* left me in *M* 39 dwell *Q*

42 Gentlewomen *Q*

Or you shall haue such a greeting sent you
strait, 49

As you will little like on: you had best be gone.

Flow. Why so, this is as it should be: being
poore,

Thus art thou serued by a vile painted whoore.
Well, since thy damned crew doe so abuse thee,
Ile try of honest men, how they will vse mee.

Enter an auncient Citizen.

Sir, I beseech you to take compassion of a man,
one whose Fortunes haue beene better then at
this instant they seeme to bee: but if I might
craue of you some such little portion, as
would bring mee to my friends, I should rest
thankfull, vntill I had requited so great a
curtesie. 61

Citizen. Fie, fie, yong man, this course is
very bad,

Too many such haue wee about this Cittie,
Yet for I haue not seene you in this sort,
Nor noted you to be a common begger: 65
Hold, theres an Angel, to beare your charges
downe.

Goe to your freinds, do not on this depend:
Such bad beginnings oft haue worsen ends. 68

[Exit Citt.]

Flow. Worsen endes: nay, if it fall out no
worse then in old angels I care not. Nay, now
I haue had such a fortunate beginning, Ile not
let a sixepennie-purse escape me. By the
Masse, here comes another. 73

*Enter a Citizens wife with a torch before
her.*

God blesse you, faire Mistresse. Now would
it please you, gentlewoman, to looke into the
wants of a poore Gentle-man, a yonger
brother, I doubt not but God will treble restore
it backe againe: one that neuer before this
time demanded pennie, halfpennie, nor farthing.

Citiz. Wife. Stay, *Alexander.* Now, by
my troth, a very proper man, and tis great
pittie: hold, my friend, theres all the monie
I haue about me, a couple of shillings, and
God blesse thee. 84

Flow. Now God thanke you, sweete Lady:
if you haue any friend, or Garden-house, where
you may imploy a poore gentleman as your
friend, I am yours to command in all secret
seruice. 89

Citiz. I thanke you, good friend. I prethy
let me see that againe I gaue thee: there is
one of them a brasse shilling; giue me them,

and here is halfe a crowne in gold. [*He giues
it her.*] Nowe, out vpon thee, Rascall! secret
seruice! what doest thou make of mee? it
were a good deede to haue thee whipt. Now
I haue my money againe, ile see thee hanged
before I giue thee a pennie. Secret seruice!
On, good *Alexander.* [*Exit both.*]

Flow. This is villanous lucke. I perceiue
dishonestie will not thriue: here comes more.
God forgiue mee, Sir *Arthur*, and M(aister)
Oliuer: afore God, Ile speake to them. 103

Enter Sir Arthur, and M. Oliuer.

God saue you, Sir *Arthur*: God saue you,
M(aister) *Oliuer*.

Oli. Byn you there, zyrrha? come, will you
ytaken your selfe to your tooles, Coystrell?

Flow. Nay, M(aister) *Oliuer*, Ile not fight
with you.

Alas, sir, you know it was not my dooings,
It was onely a plot to get Sir *Lancelots*
daughter: 110

By God, I neuer meant you harme.

Oli. And whore is the Gentle-woman thy
wife, Mezell? Whore is shee, Zyrrha, ha?

Flow. By my troth, M(aister) *Oliuer*, sicke,
very sicke; and God is my Iudge, I know not
what meanes to make for her, good Gentle-
woman. 117

Oli. Tell me true, is she sicke? tell me true,
itch vise thee.

Flow. Yes, faith, I tell you true: M(aister)
Oliuer, if you would doe mee the small kind-
nesse, but to lend me fortie shillings: so God
helpe me, I will pay you so soone as my
abilitie shall make me able, as I am a gentle-
man. 125

Oli. Well, thou zaist thy wife is zicke:
hold, thers vortie shillings; giue it to thy wife.
Looke thou giue it her, or I shall zo veze thee,
thou wert not so vezed this zeuen yeare;
looke too it. 130

Art. Yfaith, M(aister) *Oliuer*, it is in vaine
To giue to him that neuer thinkes of her.

Oli. Well, would che could yuind it.

Flow. I tell you true, sir *Arthur*, as I am a
gentleman. 135

Oli. Well fare you well, zyrrah: come, sir
Arthur. [*Exit both.*]

Flow. By the Lord, this is excellent.
Fiue golden Angels compast in an houre!
If this trade hold, ile neuer seeke a new. 140
Welcome, sweet gold: and beggery, adue.

Enter Vnckle and Father.

Vnc. See, *Kester*, if you can find the house.

127 giued *Q* 136 farewell *Ff*, etc.

53 thee] me *S* 58 some such *pr. ed.*: so much
Q. Ff: some *R* 66 Ends charges *Q, Ff* 68 end *M*
69 end *M*

Flow. Whose here? my Vnckle, and my man *Kester*? By the masse, tis they. How doe you, Vnckle, how dost thou, *Kester*? By my troath, Vnckle, you must needes lend me some mony: the poore gentlewoman my wife, so God helpe me, is verie sicke. I was robbed of the hundred angels you gaue me; they are gone. 150

Vnc. I, they are gone indeed; come, *Kester*, away.

Flow. Nay, Vnckle, do you heare? good Vnckle.

Vnc. Out, hypocrite, I will not heare thee speake; 155

Come, leaue him, *Kester*.

Flow. *Kester*, honest *Kester*.

Fath. Syr, I haue nought to say to you. Open the doore, Tanikin: thou hadst best lockt fast, for theres a false knaue without.

Flow. You are an old lying Rascall, so you are. [Exit both.]

Enter Luce.

Luce. Vat is de matter? Vat be you, yonker? 164

Flow. By this light, a Dutch Froe: they say they are calde kind. By this light, ile try her.

Luce. Vat bin you, yonker? why doe you not speake? 169

Flow. By my troath, sweet heart, a poore gentleman that would desire of you, if it stand with your liking, the bountie of your purse. 173

Enter father.

Luce. O here, God; so young an armine.

Flow. Armine, sweet-heart? I know not what you meane by that, but I am almost a begger.

Luce. Are you not a married man? vere bin your wife? Here is all I haue: take dis. 179

Flow. What, gold, young Froe? this is braue.

Fath.—If he haue any grace, heele now repent.

Luce. Why speake you not? were be your wife? 185

Flow. Dead, dead, shees dead; tis she hath vndone me: spent me all I had, and kept rascalls vnder mine nose to braue me.

Luce. Did you vse her vell? 189

Flow. Vse her? theres neuer a gentlewoman in *England* could be better vsed then I did her. I could but Coatch her; her diet

stood me in fortie pound a moneth, but shee is dead and in her graue my cares are buried.

Luce. Indeed, dat vas not scone. 195

Fath. —He is turned more diuell then he was before.

Flow. Thou doest belong to maister *Ciuelt* here, doest thou not?

Luce. Yes me doe. 200

Flow. Why, theres it: theres not a handfull of plate but belongs to me, Gods my Iudge: if I had but such a wench as thou art, theres neuer a man in *England* would make more of her, then I would doe, so she had any stocke. They call within: O, why, *Tanikin*. 206

Luce. Stay, one doth call; I shall come by and by againe.

Flow. By this hand, this Dutch wench is in loue with me. Were it not admirall to make her steale all *Ciuelts* Plate, and runne away.

Fath. Twere beastly. O maister *Flowerdale*, 212

Haue you no feare of God, nor conscience?

What doe you meane by this vilde course you take?

Flow. What doe I meane? why, to lue, that I meane. 216

Fath. To lue in this sort? fie vpon the course:

Your life doth show, you are a verie coward.

Flow. A coward? I pray, in what?

Fath. Why, you will borrow sixpence of a boy. 221

Flow. Snailles, is there such cowardice in that? I dare borrow it of a man, I, and of the tallest man in *England*, if he will lend it me. Let me borroweit how I can, and let them come by it how they dare. And it is well knowne, I might a rid out a hundred times if I would: so I might.

Fath. It was not want of will, but cowardice.

There is none that lends to you, but know they gaine: 230

And what is that but onely stealth in you?

Delia might hang you now, did not her heart

Take pittie of you for her sisters sake.

Goe, get you hence, least, lingering where you stay, 234

You fall into their hands you looke not for. *Flow.* Ile tarie here, till the Dutch Froe comes, if all the diuels in hell were here.

[Exit Father.]

195 shoen *Haz.* 201-5 Verse *Q, Ff* 203 but *om.*
Ff, etc. 210 admirable *R, etc.* 209-11, 220-8
 Verse *Q, Ff* 226 kowne *Q* 234 where *pr. ed.*: here
Q, Ff, etc. your stay *M*

*Enter syr Lancelot, maister Weathercocke,
and Artichoake.*

Lance. Where is the doore? are we not past
it, *Artichoake*? 239

Arty. Bith masse, heres one; ile aske him.
Doe you heare, sir? What, are you so proud?
doe you heare? which is the way to maister
Ciuets house? what will you not speake? O
me, this is filching *Flowerdale*.

Lance. O wonderfull, is this leaude villaine
here? 245

O you cheating Roague, you cut-purse con-
catcher,

What ditch, you villaine, is my daughters
grauē?

A cozening rascall, that must make a will,
Take on him that strict habit—very that, 249
When he should turneto angell—a dying grace.
Ile father in lawe you, syr, ile make a will!

Speake, villaine, wheres my daughter?
Poysoned, I warrant you, or knocked a the head
And to abuse good maister *Weathercocke*,
With his forged will, and maister *Weather-*
cocke 255

To make my grounded resolution,
Then to abuse the Deuenshyre gentleman:
Goe, away with him to prison.

Flow. Wherefore to prison? syr, I will not
goe. 260

*Enter maister Ciuēt, his wife, Oliuer, syr
Arthur, Father, and Vnckle, Delia.*

Lance. O heeres his Vnckle! welcome, gen-
tlemen, welcome all. Such a cozoner, gentle-
men, a murderer too, for any thing I know:
my daughter is missing: hath bin looked for,
cannot be found. A vild vpon thee. 265

Vnc. He is my kinsman, altho his life be
vilde;
Therefore, in Gods name, doe with him what
you will.

Lance. Marrie, to prison.

Flow. Wherefore to prison? snick vp, I
owe you nothing. 270

Lance. Bring forth my daughter then:
away with him.

Flow. Goe seeke your daughter; what doe
you lay to my charge.

Lance. Suspition of murder: goe, away with
him. 276

Flow. Murder, you dogs? I murder your
daughter!

238 *Preff* Luce Q 240 Bith] By th' *Ff* 245
lewde *Ff* 249 a strict habit, feigning that *Haz.*
256 make] shake *conj.* M 257 gentlemen Q, *F* I
261 *Preff* Luce Q 261-5 *Verse* Q 277 you dogs
pr. ed.: your dogs Q, *cl.*

Come, Vnckle, I know youle baile me.

Vnc. Not I, were there no more, then I the
Iaylor, thou the prisoner. 280

Lance. Goe; away with him.

Enter Luce like a Frowe.

Luce. O my life, here; where will you ha
de man?

Vat ha de younker done?

Wea. Woman, he hath kild his wife.

Luce. His vife: dat is not good, dat is not
seene. 286

Lance. Hang not vpon him, huswife; if you
doe, ile lay you by him.

Luce. Hauē me no oder way dan you haue
him:

He tell me dat he loue me hartily. 290

Fran. Lead away my maide to prison!
why, *Tom*, will you suffer that?

Ciu. No, by your leaue, father, she is no
vagrant: she is my wiues chamber maid, &
as true as the skin between any mans browes
here. 296

Lance. Goe too, you're both fooles:

Sonne Ciuēt, of my life, this is a plot,
Some stragling counterfait preferd to you,
No doubt to rob you of your plate and Jewels.
Ile haue you led away to prison, trull. 301

Luce. I am no trull, neither outlandish
Frowe.

Nor he, nor I shall to the prison goe:
Know you me now? nay, neuer stand amazed.
Father, I know I haue offended you, 305
And tho that dutie wills me bend my knees
To you in dutie and obedience;
Yet this wayes doe I turne, and to him
yeeld

My loue, my dutie and my humblenesse.

Lanc. Bastard in nature! kneele to such a
slaue? 310

Luce. O M(aister) *Flowerdale*, if too much
griefe

Hauē not stopt vp the organs of your voyce,
Then speake to her that is thy faithfull wife:
Or doth contempt of me thus tye thy tongue?
Turne not away, I am no *Æthyope*, 315
No wanton *Cressed*, nor a changing *Hellen*:
But rather one made wretched by thy losse.
What, turnst thou still from me? O then
I gesse thee wofulst among haplesse men.

Flow. I am, indeed, wife, wonder among
wiues! 320

Thy chastitie and vertue hath infused
Another soule in mee, red with defame,

282 here om. *Ff*: hear M 286 shoen *Haz.* 289
oder, dan M: and or... doc Q, *Ff* leave him R
297 Ends *Ciuēt* Q, *Ff* 308 way M

For in my blushing cheekes is seene my shame.

Lanc. Out, Hypocrite. I charge thee, trust him not.

Luce. Not trust him? by (the) hopes (of) after blisse, 325

I know no sorrow can be compar'd to his.

Lanc. Well, since thou weart ordain'd to beggery,

Follow thy fortune; I defie thee, I.

Oly. Ywood che were so well ydoussed as was euer white cloth in a tocking mill, and che ha not made me weepe. 331

Fath. If he hath any grace, heele now repent.

Art. It moues my heart.

Wea. By my troth, I must weepe, I can not chuse. 335

Vncle. None but a beast would such a maide misuse.

Flow. Content thy selfe, I hope to win his fauour,

And to redeeme my reputation lost:

And, Gentlemen, beleue me, I beseech you:

I hope your eyes shall behold such change, As shall deceiue your expectation. 341

Oly. I would che were ysplit now, but che beleue him.

Lance. How, beleue him?

Wea. By the mackins, I doe. 345

Lance. What, doe you thinke that ere he will haue grace?

Wea. By my faith, it will goe hard.

Oly. Well, che vor ye, he is changed: and M(aister) Flowerdale, in hope you been so, hold, theres vortie pound toward your zetting vp: what, bee not ashamed; vang it, man, vang it: bee a good husband, louen your wife: and you shall not want for vortie more, I che vor thee. 355

Arth. My meanes are little, but if youle follow me,

I will instruct you in my ablest power:

But to your wife I giue this Diamond,

And proue true Dimond faire in all your life.

Flow. Thanks, good sir *Arthur*, M(aister)

Oliuer, 360

You being my enemie, and growne so kind,

Bindes mee in all indeuour to restore—

Oly. What! restore me no restorings, man. I haue vortie pound more for *Luce*; here, vang it: *Zouth*, chil devie *London* els. What, do not thinke me a Mezel or a Scondrell to throw away my money: che haue a hundred pound more to pace of any good spotation:

325 the add. *Ff* of add. *R*
353 louen to your *Ff*, etc.

331 che] chea *Q*

I hope your vader and your vncle here wil vollow my zamples. 370

Vncle. You haue gest right of me; if he leaue of this course of life, he shall be mine here.

Lanc. But he shall neuer get a groat of me: A Cozoner, a deceiuer, one that kild 375

His painefull father, honest Gentleman

That passed the fearefull danger of the sea,

To get him liuing and maintaine him braue.

Wea. What, hath he kild his father?

Lance. I, sir, with conceit of his vild courses. 380

Fath. Sir, you are misinformed.

Lanc. Why, thou old knaue, thou toldst me so thy selfe.

Fa. I wrong'd him then: and toward my M(aisters) stock,

Thers 20 Nobles for to make amends.

Flo. No, *Kester*, I haue troubled thee, and wrong'd thee more. 385

What thou in loue giues, I in loue restore.

Fra. Ha, ha, sister, there you playd bo-peepe with *Tom*. What shall I giue her toward household? Sister *Delia*, shall I giue her my Fanne? 390

Del. You were best aske your husband.

Fran. Shal I, *Tom*?

Ciuel. I, do, *Franck*; ile by thee a new one, with a longer handle.

Franck. A russet one, *Tom*. 395

Ciuit. I, with russet feathers.

Fran. Here, sister, theres my Fanne toward household, to keepe you warme.

Luce. I thanke you, sister. 399

Wea. Why this is well, and toward faire *Luces* stocke, heres fortie shillings: and fortie good shillings more, Ile giue her, marrie. Come, sir *Lancelot*, I must haue you friends.

Lance. Not I, all this is counterfeit; He will consume it, were it a Million. 405

Fath. Sir, what is your daughters dower worth?

Lance. Had she been married to an honest man,

It had been better then a thousand pound.

Fath. Pay it him, and ile giue you my bond, 409

To make her ioynter better worth then three.

Lance. Your bond, sir? why, what are you?

Fath. One whose word in *London*, tho I say it,

Will passe there for as much as yours.

369 vader *Percy*: vnder *Q*, *Ff* 385 wrong *Q*
387-90 Verse *Q*: corr. *M* 355 Tom] *Francke* *Q*
400-3 Verse *M*: die. after stock, more, *Lancelot* 409
him] to him *M*

Lanc. Weart not thou late that vnthrifts
seruing-man?
Fath. Looke on me better, now my scarre
is off. 415

Nere muse, man, at this metamorphosie.

Lance. M(aister) *Flowerdale!*

Flow. My father! O, I shame to looke on
him.

Pardon, deare father, the follyes that are past.

Fa. Sonne, sonne, I doe, and ioy at this
thy change, 420

And applaud thy fortune in this vertuous
maide,

Whom heauen hath sent to thee to saue thy
soule.

Luc. This addeth ioy to ioy, hie heauen be
prais'd.

Wea. M(aister) *Flowerdale!*

Welcome from deathe, good M(aister) *Flower-*
dale. 425

Twas sed so here, twas sed so here, good faith.

Fath. I caused that rumour to be spread
my selfe,

Because ide see the humours of my sonne,
Which to relate the circumstance is needlesse:

And, sirra, see you runne no more into 430
That same disease:

For he thats once cured of that maladie,
Of Ryot, Swearing, Drunkennes, and Pride,

And falles againe into the like distresse,
That feur is deadly, doth till death indure:

Such men die mad as of a callenture. 436

Flow. Heauen helping me, ile hate the
course as hell.

Vnc. Say it and do it, Cozen, all is well.

Lanc. Wel, being in hope youle proue an
honest man,

I take you to my fauour. Brother *Flower-*
dale, 440

Welcome with all my heart: I see your care
Hath brought these acts to this conclusion,

424-5 One line *Q.* etc. 430-1 One line *Q.* *Ff.* *dir.*
after see *M* 440 fauour brother *Q.* *corr.* *Ff*

And I am glad of it: come, lets in and feast.

Oly. Nay, zoft you awhile: you promised
to make Sir *Arthur* and me amends. Here is
your wisest daughter; see which ans sheele
haue. 447

Lanc. A Gods name, you haue my good
will, get hers.

Oly. Howsay you then, Damsell, tyters hate?

Delia. I, sir, am yours. 450

Oly. Why, then, send for a Vicar, and chil
haue it dispatched in a trice, so chill.

Delia. Pardon me, sir, I meane I am yours,
In loue, in dutie, and affection,

But not to loue as wife: shall neere be said,
Delya was buried married, but a mayd. 456

Arth. Doe not condemne yourselfe for euer,
Vertuous faire, you were borne to loue.

Oly. Why, you say true, sir *Arthur*, she
was ybere to it so well as her mother: but
I pray you shew vs some zamples or reasons
why you will not marry? 462

Deli. Not that I doe condemne a married
life,

For tis no doubt a sanctimonious thing:

But for the care and crosses of a wife, 465

The trouble in this world that children bring;

My vow is in heauen in earth to liue alone,

Husbands, howsoever good, I will haue none.

Oly. Why, then che will liue Batcheller too.
Che zet not a vig by a wife, if a wife zet not
a vig by me. Come, shalls go to dinner? 471

Fa. To morrow I craue your companies in
Mark-lane:

To night wee le frolike in M(aister) *Ciuites*
house,

And to each health drinke downe a full
carouse.

FINIS.

444-7 Verse *Q.* *Ff* 446 ans] on us *M* 449
tyters hate *om.* *R.* etc. 453 I] that I *M* 455 it
shall *M* 457-8 Prose *M* 459-62 Verse *Q.* *Ff*
460 ybere *Ff.* etc. 467 on earth *M* 469-71 Verse
Q. *Ff* 469 che will *M* chil will *Q.* chill *Ff* a
Batchelor *Ff.* etc.

THE PVRITAINE

Or

THE VVIDDOVV of Watling-streete.

Acted by the Children of Paules.

Written by W. S.



Imprinted at London by G. E. L. D.

1607.

- Q* = Quarto of 1607
F 1 = (Third) Folio Shakespeare, 1664
F 2 = (Fourth) „ „ 1685
R = Rowe, 1703
Pope = Supplement to Pope's Shakespeare, 1728
M = Malone, 1780
St. = Steevens, *ibid.*
Th. = Theobald, *ibid.*
S = Simms, 1848
T = Tyrrell, 1851
Haz. = Hazlitt, 1852
pr. ed. = present editor

THE PURITANE WIDDOW

(THE
ACTORS
NAMES

In the Play Intituled
The PURITAN WIDDOW.

The Scene London.

Lady Plus, a Citizens Widdow.

Frances } *her two Daughters.*
Moll

Sir Godfrey, Brother-in-Law to the Widdow Plus.

Master Edmond, Son to the Widdow Plus.

George Pye-boord, a Schollar and a Citizen.

Peter Skirmish, an old Soldier.

Captain Idle, a Highway-man.

Corporall Oath, a vain-glorious Fellow.

Nicholas St. Anflings

Simon St. Mary Overies } *Serving-men to the Lady Plus.*

Fraillty

Sir Oliver Muck-hill, a Suiter to the Lady Plus.

Sir Iohn Penny-Dub, a Suiter to Moll.

Sir Andrew Tipstaffe, a Suiter to Frances.

The Sheriffe of London.

Puttock

Ravenshaw } *Two of the Sheriffs Serjeants.*

Dogson, a Yeoman.

A Noble-man.

A Gentleman Citizen.

*Officers.)*¹

ACTVS PRIMVS.

(SCENE I. A Garden behind the widow's house.)

Enter the Lady Widdow-Plus, her two Daughters Franke and Moll, her husbands Brother an old Knight Sir Godfrey, with her Sonne and heyre Maister Edmond, all in moorning apparell, Edmond in a Cypresse Hatte. The Widdow wringing her hands, and bursting into passion, as newly come from the Buriall of her husband.

Widdow. Oh, that euer I was borne, that euer I was borne!

Sir Godfrey. Nay, good Sister, deare sister, sweete sister, bee of good comfort; shew your selfe a woman, now or neuer. 5

Wid. Oh, I haue lost the dearest man, I haue buried the sweetest husband that euer lay by woman.

Sir God. Nay, giue him his due, hee was indeed an honest, vertuous, discreet, wise man,—hee was my Brother, as right as right. 11

Wid. O, I shall neuer forget him, neuer forget him; hee was a man so well giuen to a woman—oh! 14

Sir Godf. Nay, but, kinde Sister, I could weepe as much as any woman, but, alas, our teares cannot call him againe: me thinkes you are well read, Sister, and know that death is as common as *Homo*, a common name to all men:—a man shall bee taken when hee's making water.—Nay, did not the learned Parson, Maister Pigman, tell vs een now, that all Flesh is fraile, wee are borne to dye, Man ha's but a time: with such like deepe and pro-

found perswasions, as hee is a rare fellow, you know, and an excellent Reader: and for example, (as there are examples abundance,) did not Sir *Humfrey Bubble* dye tother day? There's a lustie Widdow; why, shee cryed not aboute halfe an houre—for shame, for shame! then followed him old Maister *Fulsome*, the Vsurer: there's a wise Widdow; why, shee cryed nere a whitte at all. 33

Wid. O, rancke not mee with those wicked women: I had a Husband out-shinde 'em all.

Syr Godf. I, that he did, I faith: he out-shind 'em all. 37

Widd. Doost thou stand there and see vs all weepe, and not once shed a teare for thy fathers death? oh, thou vngratious sonne and heyre, thou! 41

Edm. Troth, Mother, I should not weepe, I'me sure; I am past a childe, I hope, to make all my old Schoole fellowes laughe at me; I should bee mockt, so I should. Pray, let one of my Sisters weepe for mee. Ile laughe as much for her another time. 47

Widd. Oh, thou past-Grace, thou! out of my sight, thou gracelesse impe, thou grieuest mee more then the death of thy Father! oh, thou stubborne onely sonne! hadst thou such an honest man to thy Father—that would deceaue all the world to get riches for thee—and canst thou not afforde a little salt water? he that so wisely did quite ouer-throw the right heyre of those lands, which now you respect not: vp euery morning betwixt foure and fife; so duely at Westminster Hall euery Tearme-Time, with all his Cardes and writings, for thee, thou wicked *Absolon*—oh, deare husband! 61

¹ *Dram. Pers. add. F1* Scene I. etc. add. M 10
wise-man Q

Edm. Weep, quotha? I protest I am glad hee's Church'd; for now hee's gone, I shall spend in quiet.

Fran. Deere mother, pray cease; halfe your Teares suffice. 65
Tis time for you to take truce with youre eyes;

Let me weepe now.

Widd. Oh, such a deere knight! such a sweete husband haue I lost, haue I lost!—If Blessed bee the coarse the raine raynes vpon, he had it powring downe. 71

Syr Godf. Sister, be of good cheere, wee are all mortall our selues. I come vpon you freshly. I neare speake without comfort, heere me what I shall say:—my brother ha's left you wellthy, y'are rich. 76

Widd. Oh!

Syr Godf. I say y'ar rich: you are also faire.

Widd. Oh! 79

Sir Godf. Goe too, y'are faire, you cannot smother it; beauty will come to light; nor are your yeares so farre enter'd with you, but that you will bee sought after, and may very well answere another husband; the world is full of fine Gallants, choyse enow, Sister,—for what should wee doe with all our Knights, I pray, but to marry riche widdowes, wealthy Cittizens widdowes, lusty faire-browd Ladies? go too, bee of good comfort, I say: leaue snobbing and weeping—Yet my Brother was a kinde hearted man—I would not haue the Elfe see mee now!—Come, pluck vp a womans heart—here stands your Daughters, who be well estated, and at maturity will also bee enquir'd after with good husbands, so all these teares shall bee soone dryed vp and a better world then euer—What, Woman? you must not weepe still; hee's dead, hee's buried—yet I cannot chuse but weepe for him!

Wid. Marry againe! no! let me be buried quick then! 100

And that same part of Quire whereon I tread To such intent, O may it be my graue;
And that the Priest may turne his wedding praiers,

E'en with a breath, to funerall dust and ashes! Oh, out of a million of millions, I should nere finde such a husband; hee was vnmatchable,—vnmatchable! nothing was to hot, nor to deere for mee, I could not speake of that one thing, that I had not: beside I had keyes of all, kept all, receiud all, had money in my purse, spent what I would, went abroad when I would, came home when I would, and did all what I would.

75 has *Ff*, etc. 101 o' the choir *M* 107 too hot
M: so hot *Q*, *Ff*: too good conj. *S*

Oh, my sweete husband! I shall neuer haue the like. 114

Sir Godf. Sister, nere say so; hee was an honest brother of mine, and so, and you may light vpon one as honest againe, or one as honest againe may light vpon you: that's the properer phrase, indeed. 119

Wid. Neuer! oh, if you loue me, vrge it not. (*Kneels.*)

Oh may I be the by-word of the world,
The common talke at Table in the mouth
Of euery Groome and Wayter, if e're more
I entertaine the carnall suite of Man! 124

Mol. I must kneele downe for fashion too.

Franck. And I, whom neuer man as yet hath scalde,

Ee'n in this depth of generall sorrow, vowe
Neuer to marry, to sustaine such losse 128
As a deere husband seemes to be, once dead.

Mol. I lou'd my father well, too; but to say,
Nay, vow, I would not marry for his death—
Sure, I should speake false Lattin, should I not?
Ide as soone vow neuer to come in Bed. 133
Tut! Women must liue by th' quick, and not by th' dead.

Wid. Deare Copie of my husband, oh let me kisse thee. 135

How like him is this Model! this briefe Picture
[*Drawing out her husbands Picture.*

Quickens my teares: my sorrowes are renew'd
At this fresh sight.

Sir Godf. Sister—

Wid. Away, 140

All honesty with him is turn'd to clay.

Oh my sweete husband, oh—

Franck. My deere father!

[*Exeunt mother and daughters.*

Mol. Heres a puling, indeede! I thinke my Mother weepes for all the women that euer buried husbands; for if from time to time all the Widdowes teares in England had bene bottled vp, I do not thinke all would haue fild a three-halfe-penny Bottle. Alasse, a small matter bucks a hand-kercher,—and sometimes the spittle stands to nie Saint Thomas a Watrings. Well, I can mourne in good sober sort as well as another; but where I spend one teare for a dead Father, I could giue twenty kisses for a quick husband. [*Exit Moll.* 155

Sir Godf. Well, go thy waies, old *Sir Godfrey*, and thou maist be proud on't, thou hast a kinde louing sister-in-lawe; how constant! how passionate! how full of Aprill the poore

S. D. *Kneels add. R* after 124 131 vow.. his *Ff*,
etc.: now.. her *Q* 136 this.. this *M*: their.. their
Q, *Ff* 138 this *M*: their *Q*, *Ff* 147 widows'
conj. *Sl*.

soules eyes are! Well, I would my Brother knew on't, he should then know what a kinde wife hee had left behinde him: truth, and twere not for shame that the Neighbours at th' next garden should heare me, betweene ioye and grieve I should e'en cry out-right! 165

[Exit Sir Godfrey.]

Edmond. So, a faire riddance! My fathers layde in dust; his Coffin and he is like a whole-meate-pye, and the wormes will cut him vp shortlie. Farewell, old Dad, farewell. Ile be curb'd in no more. I perceiue a sonne and heire may quickly be made a foole, and he will be one, but Ile take another order.—Now she would haue me weepe for him, for-sooth, and why? because he cozn'd the right heire, beeing a foole, and bestow'd those Lands vpon me his eldest Son; and therefore I must weepe for him, ha, ha. Why, al the world knowes, as long as twas his pleasure to get me, twas his duty to get for me: I know the law in that point; no Attorney can gull me. Well, my Vncle is an olde Asse, and an Admirable Cockcombe. Ile rule the Roast my selfe. Ile be kept vnder no more; I know what I may do well inough by my Fathers Copy: the Lawe's in mine owne hands now: nay, now I know my strength, Ile be strong inough for my Mother, I warrant you. [Exit. 187]

(SCENE II. A street.)

Enter George Py-bord, a scholler and a Cittizen, and vnto him an old souldier, Peter Skirmish.

Pye. What's to be done now, old Lad of War? thou that wert wont to be as hot as a turn-spit, as nimble as a fencer, & as lowzy as a schoole-maister; now thou art put to silence like a Sectarie.—War sits now like a Iustice of peace, and does nothing. Where be your Muskets, Caleiuers and Hotshots? in Long-lane, at Pawne, at Pawne.—Now keies are your onely Guns, Key-guns, Key-guns, & Bawdes the Gunners, who are your centinells in peace, and stand ready charg'd to giue warning, with hems, hums, & pockey-coffs; only your Chambers are licenc'd to play vpon you, and Drabs enow to giue fire to 'em. 14

Skir. Well, I cannot tell, but I am sure it goes wrong with me, for since the cessure of the wars, I haue spent aboue a hundred crownes out a purse. I haue beene a souldier any time this forty yeares, and now I perceiue an olde souldier and an olde Courtier haue both

one destinie, and in the end turne both into hob-nayles.

Pie. Pretie mistery for a begger, for indeed a hob-naile is the true embleme of a beggers shoo-soale. 25

Skir. I will not say but that warre is a bloud-sucker, and so; but, in my conscience, (as there is no souldier but has a peice of one, tho it bee full of holes like a shot Antient; no matter, twill serue to sweare by) in my conscience, I thinke some kinde of Peace has more hidden oppressions, and violent heady sinnes, (tho looking of a gentle nature) then a profest warre. 34

Pye. Troth, and for mine owne part, I am a poore Gentleman, & a Scholler: I haue beene matriculated in the Vniuersitie, wore out sixe Gownes there, seene some fooles, and some Schollers, some of the City, and some of the Countrie, kept order, went bare-headed ouer the Quadrangle, eate my Commons with a good stomacke, and Battled with Discretion; at last, hauing done many slights and trickes to maintaine my witte in vse (as my braine would neuer endure mee to bee idle,) I was expeld the Vniuersitie, onely for stealing a Cheese out of Iesus Colledge.

Skir. Ist possible? 48

Pye. Oh! there was one Welshman (God forgiue him) pursued it hard; and neuer left, till I turnde my staffe toward London, where when I came, all my friends were pitt-hold, gone to Graues, (as indeed there was but a few left before.) Then was I turnde to my wittes, to shift in the world, to towre among Sonnes and Heyres, and Fooles, and Gulls, and Ladyes eldest Sonnes, to worke vpon nothing, to feede out of Flint, and euer since has my belly beene much beholding to my braine. But, now, to returne to you, old Skirmish: I say as you say, and for my part wish a Turbulency in the world, for I haue nothing to loose but my wittes, and I thinke they are as mad as they will be: and to strengthen your Argument the more, I say an honest warre is better then a bawdy peace, as touching my profession. The multiplictie of Schollers, hatcht and nourisht in the idle Calmes of peace, makes 'em like Fishes one deuoure another; and the communitie of Learning has so plaide vpon affections, and thereby almost Religion is come about to Phantasie, and discredited by being too much spoken off—in so many & meane mouths, I my selfe, being a Scholler and a Graduate, haue no other comfort by

my learning, but the Affection of my words, to know how Scholler-like to name what I want, & can call my selfe a Begger both in Greeke and Lattin: and therefore, not to cogge with Peace, Ile not be afraide to say, 'tis a great Breeder, but a barren Nourisher: a great getter of Children, which must either be Theeues or Rich-men, Knaues or Beggars. 83

Skirmish. Well, would I had bene borne a Knaue then, when I was borne a Begger; for if the truth were knowne, I thinke I was begot when my Father had neuer a penny in his purse. 88

Pye. Puh, faint not, old *Skirmish*; let this warrant thee, *Facilis Descensus Auerni*, 'tis an easie iourney to a Knaue; thou maist bee a Knaue when thou wilt; and Peace is a good Madam to all other professions, and an arrant Drabbe to vs, let vs handle her accordingly, and by our wittes thrue in despite of her; for since the lawe liues by quarrells, the Courtier by smooth God-morrowes; and euery profession makes it selfe greater by imperfections, why not wee then by shiftes, wiles, and forgeries? and seeing our braines are our onely Patrimonies, let's spend with iudgment, not like a desperate sonne and heire, but like a sober and discrete Templer,—one that will neuer marche beyond the bounds of his allowance. And for our thruiing meanes, thus: I my selfe will put on the Deceit of a Fortune-teller. 107

Skirm. A Fortune-teller? Very proper.

Pye. And you of a figure-caster, or a Coniurer.

Skir. A Coniurer? 111

Pye. Let me alone; Ile instruct you, and teach you to deceiue all eyes, but the Diuels.

Skir. Oh I, for I would not deceiue him, and I could choose, of all others. 115

Pye. Feare not, I warrant you; and so by those meanes wee shall helpe one another to Patients, as the condition of the age affords creatures enow for cunning to worke vpon.

Skir. Oh wondrous! new fooles and fresh Asses. 121

Pye. Oh, fit, fit! excellent.

Skir. What, in the name of Coniuring?

Pye-board. My memorie greetes mee happily with an admirable subject to graze vpon: The Lady-Widdow, who of late I sawe weeping in her Garden for the death of her Husband; sure she 'as but a watrish soule, and halfe on't

by this time is dropt out of her Eyes: deuce well managde may doe good vpon her: it stands firme, my first practise shall bee there.

Skir. You haue my voyce, *George*. 132

Pye-board. Sh'as a gray Gull to her Brother, a foole to her onely sonne, and an Ape to her yongest Daughter.—I ouerheard 'em seuerally, and from their words Ile deriue my deuce; and thou, old *Peter Skirmish*, shall be my second in all slights.

Skir. Nere doubt mee, *George Pye-board*,—onely you must teach me to coniure. 140

Enter Capitaine Idle, pinioned, & with a garde of Officers passeth ouer the Stage.

Pye. Puh, Ile perfect thee, *Peter*.—How now? what's hee?

Skir. Oh *George*! this sight kills me. Tis my sworne Brother, Capitaine *Idle*.

Pye. Capitaine *Idle*! 145

Skir. Apprehended for some felonious act or other. Hee has started out, h'as made a Night on't, lackt siluer. I cannot but commend his resolution; he would not pawne his Buffe-Ierkin. I would eyther some of vs were employde, or might pitch our Tents at Vsurers doores, to kill the slaues as they peepe out at the Wicket. 153

Pye. Indeed, those are our ancient Enimies; they keepe our money in their hands, and make vs to bee hangd for robbing of 'em. But, come, lets follow after to the Prison, and know the Nature of his offence; and what we can steed him in, hee shall be sure of; and Ile vphold it still, that a charitable Knaue is better then a soothing Puritaine. [*Exeunt.*] 161

(SCENE III. A street.)

Enter at one doore Corporall Oth, a Vaine-glorious fellow; and at the other, three of the Widdow Puritaines Seruingmen, Nicholas Saint-Tantlings, Simon Saint-Mary-Oueries, and Fraillie, in black scurvie mourning coates, and Bookes at their Girdles, as coming from Church. They meete.

Nich. What, Corporall *Oth*? I am sorry we haue met with you, next our hearts; you are the man that we are forbidden to keepe company withall. Wee must not sweare I can tell you, and you haue the name for swearing. 5

Sim. I, Corporall *Oth*, I would you would do so much as forsake vs, sir; we cannot abide you, wee must not be seene in your company.

76 Affliction Q 94 us. Let M 100 the onely Ff 108 A Fortune-teller add. to line 107 Q, Ff: corr. M 109 of om. Ff, etc. 117 those] these Ff 128 she 'as] she's Ff: she has M on't] of t M

Frail. There is none of vs, I can tell you, but shall be soundly whipt for swearing. 10
Corp. Why, how now, wethree? Puritanicall Scrape-shoes, Flesh a good Fridayes! a hand. All. Oh!

Corp. Why, *Nicholas Saint-Tantlings*, *Simon Saint Mary Oueries*, ha's the De'ele posset you, that you sweare no better? you halfe-Christned *Katomites*, you vngod-motherd Varlets, doe's the first lesson teach you to bee proud, and the second to bee Cocks-combes? proud Cocks-combes! not once to doe dutie to a man of Marke! 21

Frail. A man of Marke, quathal! I doe not thinke he can shew a Beggars Noble.

Corp. A Corporall, a Commander, one of spirit, that is able to blowe you vp all drye with your Bookes at your Girdles. 26

Simon. Wee are not taught to beleeeue that, sir, for we know the breath of man is weake.

[*Corporall breaths vpon Frailtie.*]

Frail. Foh, you lie, *Nicholas*; for here's one strong inough. Blowe vs vp, quatha: hee may well blow me aboute twelue-score off an him. I warrant, if the winde stood right, a man might smell him from the top of Newgate, to the Leades of Ludgate. 34

Corp. Sirrah, thou Hollow-Booke of Waxecandle—

Nicho. I, you may say what you will, so you sweare not.

Corp. I sweare by the— 39

Nicho. Hold, hold, good Corporall *Oth*; for if you sweare once, wee shall all fall downe in a sowne presently.

Corp. I must and will sweare: you quiuering Cocks-combes, my Capitaine is imprisoned, and by *Vulcans* Lether Cod-piece point—

Nicho. O *Simon*, what an oth was there. 46

Frail. If hee should chance to breake it, the poore mans Breeches would fall downe about his heeles, for *Venus* allowes him but one point to his hose. 50

Corp. With these my Bullye-Feete I will thumpe ope the Prison doores, and braine the Keeper with the begging Boxe, but Ile see my honest sweete Capitaine *Idle* at libertie.

Nich. How, Capitaine *Ydle*? my olde Aunts sonne, my deere Kinsman, in *Capadochio*? 56

Corp. I, thou Church-peeling, thou Holyparing, religious outside, thou! if thou hadst any grace in thee, thou would'st visit him, relieue him, sweare to get him out. 60

Nicho. Assure you, Corporall, indeed-la, tis the first time I heard on't.

25 drye] three *M* 42 swoon *F2*, etc. 51
 -Feete]-Fleet *F2*

Corp. Why doe't now, then, *Marmaset*: bring forth thy yearly-wages, let not a Commander perish! 65

Simon. But, if hee bee one of the wicked, hee shall perish.

Nich. Well, Corporall, Ile e'en along with you, to visit my Kinsman: if I can do him any good, I will,—but I haue nothing for him. *Simon Saint Mary Oueris* and *Frailty*, pray make a lie for me to the Knight my Maister, old *Sir Godfrey*.

Corp. A lie? may you lie then? 74

Frail. O, I, we may lie, but we must not sweare.

Sim. True, wee may lie with our Neighbors wife, but wee must not sweare we did so.

Corp. Oh, an excellent Tag of religion! 79

Nic. Oh *Simon*, I haue thought vpon a sound excuse; it will go currant: say that I am gon to a Fast.

Sim. To a Fast? very good.

Nic. I, to a Fast, say, with Maister *Fulbellie* the Minister. 85

Sim. Maister *Fulbellie*? an honest man: he feedes the flock well, for he's an excellent feeder. [*Exit Corporall, Nicholas.*]

Frail. O, I, I haue seene him eate vp a whole Pigge, and afterward falle to the petticoates. 90
 [*Exit Simon and Frailty.*]

(SCENE IV.)

The Prison, Marshalsea.

Enter Capitaine Ydle at one dore, and (later Pyeboard and) old souldier at the other.

George Py-boord, speaking within.

Pye. Pray turne the key.

Sker. Turne the key, I pray.

Cap. Who should those be? I almost know their voyces.— 4

O my friends! [*Entring.*]
 Ya're welcome to a smelling Roome here. You newly tooke leaue of the ayre; ist not a strange sauour?

Pie. As all prisons haue: smells of sundry wretches,

Who, tho departed, leaue their sents behind 'em. 10

By God, Capitaine, I am sincerely sorry for thee.

Cap. By my troth, *George*, I thanke thee; but pish,—what must be, must bee.

Skir. Capitaine, what doe you lie in for? ist great? what's your offence? 15

Cap. Faith, my offence is ordinarie,—com-

75 me must *Q* 89 vp om. *F2*, etc. 90 falls *Q*:
 fall *F7*, etc. Scene IV. add. *M* 7 ist] has it *M*

mon: A Hie-waye; and I feare mee my penaltie will be ordinarie and common too: a halter.

Pie. Nay, prophecy not so ill; it shall go heard,
But Ile shift for thy life. 20

Cap. Whether I liue or die, thou'art an honest *George*. Ile tell you—siluer flou'd not with mee, as it had done, (for now the tide runnes to Bawdes and flatterers.) I had a start out, and by chaunce set vpon a fat steward, thinking his purse had beene as pursey as his bodie; and the slaue had about him but the poore purchase of tenne groates: notwithstanding, beeing descryed, pursued, and taken, I know the Law is so grim, in respect of many desprate, vnsetled souldiours, that I see mee I shall daunce after their pipe for't. 33

Skir. I am twice sory for you, *Captaine*: first that your purchase was so small, and now that your danger is so great.

Cap. Push, the worst is but death,—ha you a pipe of Tobacco about you? 38

Skir. I thinke I haue there abouts about me.
[*Cap. blowes a pipe.*]

Cap. Her's a cleane Gentleman too, to receiue.

Pie. Well, I must cast about some happy slight.

Worke braine, that euer didst thy Maister right!

Cor. Keeper! let the key be turn'd! 44
[*Corporall and Nicholas within.*]

Nic. I, I pray, Maister keeper, giues a cast of your office.

Cap. How now? more Visitants?—what, Corporal *Oth*?

Pie. Skir. Corporal? 49
Cor. In prison, honest *Captaine*? this must not be.

Nic. How do you, *Captaine Kinsman*?

Cap. Good Cocks-combe! what makes that pure, starch'd foole here? 54

Nic. You see, *Kinsman*, I am som-what bould to call in, and see how you do. I heard you were safe inough, and I was very glad on't that it was no worse.

Cap. This is a double torture now,—this foole by'th booke 59

Do's vex me more then my imprisonment. What meant you, Corporall, to hooke him hither?

Cor. Who, he? he shall releiue thee, and supply thee;

Ile make him doo't. 63

37 Pish M 59-61 Prose Ff, etc. 60 Do's] doth Ff, etc.

Cap. (*aside, to Oath*) Fie, what vaine breath you spend! hee supply? Ile sooner expect mercy from a Vsurer when my bonds forfeited, sooner kindnesse from a Lawier when my mony's spent: nay, sooner charity from the deuill, then good from a Puritaine! Ile looke for releife from him, when Lucifer is restor'd to his bloud, and in Heauen againe! 71

Nic. I warrant, my *Kinsman's* talking of me, for my left eare burnes most tyrannically.

Pie. *Captaine Ydle*, what's he there? hee lookes like a Monkey vpward, and a Crane downe-ward. 76

Cap. Pshaw, a foolish Cozen of mine; I must thanke God for him.

Pie. Why, the better subiect to worke a scape vpon; thou shalt e'en change clothes with him, and leaue him here, and so— 81

Cap. Push, I publish't him e'en now to my Corporall: hee will be damn'd, ere hee do me so much good; why, I know a more proper, a more handsome deuice then that, if the slaue would be sociable. Now, Goodman *Fleere-face*? 87

Nic. Oh, my Cozen begins to speake to me now: I shall bee acquainted with him againe, I hope.

Skirmish. Looke what ridiculous Raptures take hold of his wrinkles. 92

Pye. Then, what say you to this deuice? a happy one, *Captaine*?

Cap. Speake lowe, *George*; Prison Rattes haue wider eares then those in Malt-lofts. 96

Nic. Cozen, if it lay in my power, as they say—to—do—

Cap. Twould do me an exceeding pleasure, indeed, that, but nere talke forder on't: the foole will be hang'd, ere he do't. 101

(*To the Corporal.*)

Cor. Pax, Ile thump 'im to't.

Pie. Why, doe but trie the Fopster, and breake it to him bluntly. 104

Cap. And so my disgrace will dwell in his Iawes, and the slaue slauer out our purpose to his Maister, for would I were but as sure on't as I am sure he will deny to do't.

Nic. I would bee heartily glad, Cozen, if any of my friendships, as they say, might—stand—ah— 111

Pie. Why, you see he offers his friend-ship foolishly to you alreadie.

Captain. I, that's the hell on't, I would hee would offer it wisely.

Nich. Verily, and indeed la, Couzen— 116

Cap. I haue tooke note of thy fleeres a good while: if thou art minded to do mee good—as

100 but om. Ff 101 S. D. add, M 102 'im] 'em Q

thou gapst vpon me comfortably, and giu'st me charitable faces, which indeede is but a fashion in you all that are Puritaines—wilt soone at night steale me thy Maisters chaine?

Nich. Oh, I shall sowne!

Pie. Corporal, he starts already. 124

Cap. I know it to be worth three hundred Crownes, & with the halfe of that I can buy my life at a Brokers, at second hand, which now lies in pawne to th' Lawe: if this thou refuse to do, being easie and nothing dangerous, in that thou art held in good opinion of thy Maister, why tis a palpable Argument thou holdst my life at no price, and these thy broken & vnioynted offers are but only created in thy lip, now borne, and now buried, foolish breath onlie. What, would do't? shall I looke for happinesse in thy answer? 136

Nic. Steale my Maisters chaine, quo'the? no, it shal nere bee sayd, that *Nicholas Saint Tantlings* committed Bird-lime!

Cap. Nay, I told you as much; did I not? tho he be a Puritaine, yet he will be a true man.

Nich. Why, Couzen, you know tis written, *thou shalt not steale.* 144

Cap. Why, and foole, *thou shalt loue thy Neighbour*, and helpe him in extremities.

Nich. Masse, I thinke it bee, indeede: in what Chapter's that, Couzen?

Cap. Why, in the first of Charity, the 2. verse. 150

Nich. The first of Charity, quathal! that's a good iest; there's no such Chapter in my booke!

Cap. No, I knew twas torne out of thy Booke, & that makes so little in thy heart. 155

Pie. Come, let me tell you, ya're too vnkinde a Kinsman, yfaith; the Captaine louing you so deerely, I, like the Pomwater of his eye, and you to be so vncomfortable: fie, fie. 160

Nic. Pray, do not wish me to bee hangd: any thing else that I can do, had it beene to rob, I would ha don't; but I must not steale: that's the word, the literall, *thou shalt not steale*; and would you wish me to steale, then?

Pie. No, faith, that were to much, to speake truth: why, would thou nim it from him? 167

Nich. That I will!

Pie. Why, ynough, bullie; hee shall bee content with that, or he shall ha none; let mee alone with him now! Captaine, I ha dealt with your Kins-man in a Corner; a good, kinde-naturde fellow, mee thinkes: goe too,

154 know *Ff* 155 makes it so *R*, etc. 169 shall] will *Ff*, etc.

you shall not haue all your owne asking, you shall bate somewhat on't: he is not contented absolutely, as you would say, to steale the chaine from him,—but to do you a pleasure, he will nim it from him. 178

Nich. I, that I will, Couzen.

Cap. Well, seeing he will doe no more, as far as I see, I must bee contented with that.

Cor. Here's no notable gullery! 182

Pie. Nay, Ile come neerer to you, Gentleman: because wee haue onely but a helpe and a mirth on't, the knight shall not loose his chaine neither, but (it shall) be only laide out of the way some one or two daies.

Nich. I, that would be good indeed, Kinsman. 189

Pie. For I haue a farder reach to profit vs better by the missing on't onelie, then if wee had it out-right, as my discourse shall make it knowne too you.—When thou hast the chaine, do but conuay it out at back-dore into the Garden, and there hang it close in the Rosemary banck but for a small season; and by that harmlesse deuise, I know how to winde Captaine *Ydle* out of prison: the Knight thy Maister shall get his pardon and release him, & he satisfie thy Maister with his own chaine, & wondrous thankes on both hands.

Nich. That were rare indeed, la: pray, let me know how. 203

Pie. Nay, tis very necessary thou shouldst know, because thou must be imploide as an Actor.

Nich. An Actor? O no, that's a Plaier; and our Parson railes againe Plaiers mightily, I can tell you, because they brought him drunck vpp'o'th Stage once,—as hee will bee horribly druncke. 211

Cor. Masse, I cannot blame him then, poore Church-spout.

Pie. Why, as an Intermedler, then?

Nich. I, that, that. 215

Pie. Giue me Audience, then: when the old Knight thy Maister has ragde his fill for the losse of the chaine, tell him thou hast a Kinsman in prison, of such exquisit Art, that the diuill himselte is french Lackey to him, and runnes bare-headed by his horse-bellie (when hee has one) whome hee will cause with most *Yrish* Dexterity to fetch his chaine, tho twere hid vnder a mine of sea-cole, and nere make Spade or Pickaxe his instruments: tell him but this, with farder instruc-

186 it shall add. *M* 191 on't] of't *M* 194 at] at a *Ff*, etc. 208 against *Ff*, etc. 210 upo'th' *Ff* 217 ragde *Q*: rag'd *Ff*

tions thou shalt receiue from mee, and thou shoust thy selfe a Kinsman indeed.

Cor. A dainty Bullie.

Skir. An honest Booke-keeper. 230

Cap. And my three times thrice hunnie Couzen.

Nich. Nay, grace of God, Ile robbe him on't suddainlie, and hang it in the Rosemary banck; but I beare that minde, Couzen, I would not steale any thing, mee thinks, for mine owne Father. 237

Skir. He beares a good minde in that, Capitaine!

Pie. Why, well sayde; he begins to be an honest fellow, faith.

Cor. In troth, he does. 242

Nich. You see, Couzen, I am willing to do you any kinnesse, alwaies sauing my selfe harmeslesse. [*Exit Nicholas.*]

Captaine. Why, I thanke thee; fare thee well, I shall requite it.

Cor. Twill bee good for thee, Capitaine, that thou hast such an egregious Asse to thy Coozen. 250

Cap. I, is hee not a fine foole, Corporall? But, *George*, thou talkst of Art and Coniuring; How shall that bee?

Pib. Puh, bee't not in your care: Leaueth that to me and my directions. 255 Well, Capitaine, doubt not thy deliuerie now, E'en with the vantage, man, to gaine by prison,

As my thoughts prompt me: hold on, braine and plot!

I ayme at many cunning far euents, All which I doubt not but to hit at length. 260 Ile to the Widdow with a quaint assault.

Captaine, be merry.

Capt. Who, I? Kerrie, merry, Buffe-Ierkin.

Pye. Oh, I am happy in more slights, and one will knit strong in another.—Corporall *Oth.* 266

Corp. Hoh, Bully?

Pye. And thou, old *Peter Skirmish*; I haue a necessary taske for you both.

Skir. Lay't vpon, *George Pye-boord.* 270

Corp. What ere it bee, weeles manage it.

Pye. I would haue you two maintaine a quarrell before the Lady Widdowes doore, and drawe your swords i'th edge of the Euening; clash a little, clash, clash. 275

Corp. Fuhl!

Let vs alone to make our Blades ring noone, Tho it be after Supper.

247 *S. D.* Exit *Nich.* repeated *Q* 254 Prefix *Peb Q* 270 it upon us *M*

Pye. (I) Know you can. And out of that false fire, I doubt not but to raise strange beleefe—And, Capitaine, to countenance my deuice the better, and grace my words to the Widdow, I haue a good plaine Sattin sute, that I had of a yong Reueller t'other night: for words passe not regarded now a dayes, vnlesse they come from a good suite of cloaths, which the Fates and my wittes haue bestowed vpon me. Well, Capitaine *Idle*, if I did not highly loue thee, I would nere bee seene within twelue score of a prison, for I protest at this instant, I walke in great danger of small debts; I owe money to seuerall Hostisses, and you know such liills will quickly be vpon a mans Iack.

Capt. True, *George.* 295

Pye. Fare thee well, Capitaine. Come, Corporall and Ancient! thou shalt heare more newes next time we grette thee.

Corp. More newes! I, by yon Beare at Bridge-Foote in heauen shalt thou. 300

[*Exeunt* (*Pyeboard*, *Skirmish*, and *Oath.*)]

Capt. Inough: my friends, farewell. This prison shewes as if Ghosts did part in Hell.

(ACT II.)

(SCENE I. A room in the widow's house.)

Enter Moll youngest Daughter to the Widdow: alone.

Moll. Not *Marry*? forswearre Marriage? why, all women know 'tis as honorable a thing as to lye with a man; and I to spight my Sisters vowe the more, haue entertaine a suter already, a fine gallant Knight of the last Fether: hee sayes he will Coach mee too, and well appoint mee, allow mee money to Dice with-all, and many such pleasing protestations hee sticks vpon my lips; indeed, his short-winded Father ith' Countrie is wondrous wealthy, a most abhominable Farmer, and therefore hee may doote in time: troth, Ile venture vpon him. Women are not without wayes enow to helpe them-selues: if he proue wise and good as his word, why, I shall loue him, and vse him kindly: and if hee prooue an Asse, why, in a quarter of an houres warning I can transforme him into an Oxe;—there comes in my Reliefe agen. 19

Enter Fraillie.

Frail. O, *Mistresse Moll*, *Mistresse Moll.*

Moll. How now? what's the newes?

279 I add. *F1* 300 in heauen] in the even con.
M 302 if om. *M* Act II. add. *R* Scene I. etc.
add. *M* 12 doote] doote *Ff*: do it *M*

Frail. The Knight your suter, sir *Iohn Penny-Dub*—

Moll. Sir *Iohn Penny-Dub*? where? where?

Frail. Hee's walking in the Gallerie.

Moll. Has my Mother seene him yet? 25

Frail. O no, shee's—spitting in the Kitchin.

Moll. Direct him hether softly, good *Frailtie*,—

He meete him halfe way.

Frail. That's iust like running a Tilt; but I hope heele breake nothing this time. *(Exit.)*

Enter Sir Iohn Penny-Dub.

Moll. 'Tis happinesse my Mother saw him not: 31

O welcome, good Sir *Iohn*.

Penny-dub. I thanke you, faith.—Nay, you must stand mee, till I kissee you: 'tis the fashion euery where, I-faith, and I came from Court enow. 36

Moll. Nay, the Fates forfend that I should anger the fashion!

Penny. Then, not forgetting the sweete of new ceremonies, I first fall back, then recouering my selfe, make my honour to your lip thus: and then accost it. 42

Moll. Trust me, very pritty, and mouing; y'are worthy on't, sir.

Kissing: Enter Widdow and Sir Godfr.

O, my Mother, my Mother! now shee's here, wee steale into the Gallery. *(Exeunt.)* 46

Sir Godfr. Nay, Sister, let Reason rule you, doe not play the foole; stand not in your owne light. You haue wealthy offers, largetendrings; doe not with-stand your good fortune: who comes a wooing to you, I pray? no small foole; a rich Knight ath Citty, Sir *Oliuer Muck-hill*—no small foole I can tell you: and furthermore, as I heard late by your Maide-seruants, (as your Maide-seruants will say to mee any thing, I thanke 'em) both your Daughters are not without Suters, I, and worthy ones too! one a Briske Courtier, Sir *Andrew Tip-staffe*, suter a farre off to your eldest Daughter, and the third a huge-welthie Farmers sonne, a fine young Countrie Knight, they call him Sir *Iohn Penny-Dub*: a good name, marry; hee may haue it coynde when hee lackes money. What blessings are these, Sister! 64

Wid. Tempt me not, Satan.

Sir Godfr. Satan? doe I looke like Satan? I hope the Deuill's not so old as I, I tro.

Wid. You wound my sences, Brother, when you name

A suter to me:—oh, I cannot abide it, I take in poison, when I heare one nam'd. 70

Enter Simon.

How now, *Simon*? where's my sonne *Edmund*?

Sim. Verily Madame, hee is at vaine Exercise, dripping in the Tennis-court.

Wid. At Tennis-court? oh, now his father's gon, I shall haue no rule with him; oh, wicked *Edmond*, I might well compare this with the Prophecie in the Chronicle, tho farre inferior: as *Harry of Monmouth* woone all, and *Harry of Windsor* lost all; so *Edmund of Bristow*, that was the Father, got all, and *Edmond of London*, that's his sonne now, will spend all.

Sir Godfr. Peace, Sister, wee haue him reformd, there's hope on him yet, tho it be but a little. 84

Enter Frailtie.

Frail. Forsooth, Madam, there are two or three Archers at doore would very gladly speake with your Ladyship.

Wid. Archers?

Sir Godfr. Your husbands Fletcher, I warrant. 90

Wid. Oh!

Let them come neere, they bring home things of his.

Troth, I should ha forgot 'em. How now, Villaine?

Which be those Archers? 94

Enter the suters Sir Andrew Tipstaffe, Sir Oliuer Muck-hill, and Penny-dub.

Frail. Why, do you not see 'em before you? are not these Archers? what do you call 'em? Shooters: Shooters and Archers are all one, I hope.

Wid. Out, ignorant slaue.

Muck. Nay, pray be patient, Lady, 100 We come in way of honorable loue.

Tipst. Penny. Wee doe.

Muck. To you.

Tipst. Penny. And to your Daughters. 104

Widdow. O, why will you offer mee this Gentlemen? indeed I will not looke vpon you—when the Teares are scarce out of mine Eyes, not yet washt off from my Cheekes, and my deere husbands body scarce so colde as the Coffin, what reason haue you to offer it? I am not like some of your Widdowes that will burie one in the Euening, and bee sure to another ere morning. Pray, away; pray, take your answers, good Knights, and you

25 Ha's Q S. D. Exit add. M 36 e'now F 2 :
even now M 39 of] in conj. St. 44 on't] of it M
62 Penny-Dub-Q

82 him] hem Q 83 on] of M 93 Ends now Q,
Ff: corr. M 112 sure to have M

bee sweete Knights. I haue vow'd neuer to marry;—and so haue my daughters too! 116

Penny. I, two of you haue, but the thirds a good wench!

Muck. Lady, a shrewde answer, marry; the best is, tis but the first, and hee's a blunt wooer, that will leaue for one sharpe answer.

Tip. Where bee your daughters, Lady? I hope theile giue vs better encouragements. 123

Wid. Indeed, theyle answer you so; tak't a my word, theile giue you the very same answer *Verbatim*, truly la.

Penny. Mum: *Moll's* a good wench still, I know what shee'll doo.

Muck. Well, Lady, for this time wee take our leaues, hoping for better comfort. 130

Wid. O neuer, neuer! and I liue these thousand yeares! and you bee good Knights, doe not hope; twill bee all Vaine, Vayne,—looke you, put off all your suites, and you come to me againe. 135

(*Exeunt Sir John and Sir Andrew.*)

Fray. Put off all their suites, quatha? I, that's the best wooing of a Widdow, indeed, when a man's Nonsuted; that is, when he's a bed with her. [*Going out, Muckhill and sir Godfrey.*]

Muck. Sir *Godfrey*, here's twenty Angells more: worke hard for me; there's life int yet.

[*Exit Muckhill.*]

Sir Godf. Feare not, Sir *Oliuer Muckhill*, Ile stick close for you; leaue all with me. 143

Enter George Py-board, the scholler.

Pye. By your leaue, Ladie Widdow.

Wid. What, another suiter now?

Py. A suiter! no, I protest, Ladie, if you'de giue me your selfe, Ide not be troubled with you.

Wid. Say you so, Sir? then you're the better welcome, sir. 150

Pie. Nay, Heauen blesse mee from a Widdow, vnlesse I were sure to bury her speedily!

Wid. Good bluntnesse: well, your businesse, sir?

Pie. Very needfull; if you were in priuate once.

Wid. Needfull? brother, pray leaue vs; and you, sir. 158

Fray. I should laugh now, if this blunt fellow should put 'em all by side the stirrop, and vault into the saddle himselfe. I haue seene as mad a trick. [*Exit Frailtie.*]

Enter Daughters.

Wid. Now Sir?—here's none but we—Daughters, forbear. 164

134 your] yours Q

185 S. D. add. M

Pyb. O no, pray, let 'em stay, for what I haue to speake importeth equally to them as to you.

Wid. Then you may stay.

Pyb. I pray bestow on me a serious eare, For what I speake is full of weight and feare.

Wid. Feare? 171

Pyb. I, ift passe vnregarded, and vneffected; Else peace and ioy:—I pray, Attention. Widdowe, I haue beene a meere stranger for these parts that you liue in, nor did I euer know the Husband of you, and Father of them, but I truly know by certaine spirituall Intelligence, that he is in Purgatorie. 178

Wid. Purgatorie? tuh; that word deserues to bee spit vpon. I wonder that a man of sober tounge, as you seeme to be, should haue the folly to beleue there's such a place. 182

Pyb. Well, Lady, in cold bloud I speake it; I assure you that there is a Purgatory, in which place I know your husband to recide, and wherein he is like to remaine, till the dissolution of the world, till the last generall Bon-fire, when all the earth shall melt into nothing and the Seas scalde their finnie labourers: so long is his abidance, vnlesse you alter the propertie of your purpose, together with each of your Daughters theirs; that is, the purpose of single life in your selfe and your eldest Daughter, and the speedie determination of marriage in your youngest. 195

Moll. How knows hee that? what, has some Deuill told him?

Wid. Strange he should know our thoughts:—Why, but, Daughter, haue you purposde speedy Marriage? 200

Pyb. You see she tels you I, for shee sayes nothing. Nay, giue me credit as you please. I am a stranger to you, and yet you see I know your determinations, which must come to mee Metaphisically, and by a super-naturall intelligence. 206

Wid. This puts Amazement on me.

Franck. Know our seacrets!

Mol. Ide thought to steale a marriage: would his tongue

Had dropt out when he blabt it! 210

Wid. But, sir, my husband was too honest a dealing man to be now in any purgatories—

Pie. O, Do not loade your conscience with vntruths;

Tis but meere folly now to guild him ore, 214 That has past but for Copper. Praises here Cannot vnbinde him there: confesse but truth.

166-7 as you Ff

196 ha's Q

201 for om. Ff

203 and and Q

209-10 Prose M

214 him M:

hem Q: 'em Ff

I know he got his wealth with a hard gripe:

Oh hardly, hardly.

Wid. This is most strange of all: how knowes he that?

Pie. He would eate fooles and ignorant heires cleane vp; 220

And had his drinck from many a poore mans browe,

E'en as their labour brewde it.

He would scrape ritches to him most vn-justly;

The very durt betweene his nailes was Il-got, And not his owne,—oh, I groane to speake on't, 225

The thought makes me shudder—shudder!

Wid. It quakes me too, now I thinke on't. —Sir, I am much grieu'd, that you, a stranger, should so deeply wrong my dead husband!

Pie. Oh! 230

Wid. A man that would keepe Church so duly; rise early, before his seruants, and e'en for Religious hast, go vngarterd, vnbuttend, nay, sir Reuerence, vntrust, to Morning Prayer.

Pie. Oh, vff. 235

Wid. Dine quickly vpon hie-dayes, and when I had great guests, would e'en shame me and rize from the Table, to get a good seate at an after-noone Sermon. 239

Pie. There's the diuill, there's the diuill! true, hee thought it Sanctity ynough, if he had kild a man, so tad beene done in a Pue, or vndon his Neigh(b)our, so ta'd beene nere ynough to't Preacher. Oh,—a Sermon's a fine short cloake of an houre long, and wil hide the vpper-part of a dissembler.—Church! I, he seem'd al Church, & his conscience was as hard as the Pulpit!

Wid. I can no more endure this.

Pie. Nor I, widdow, endure to flatter. 250

Wid. Is this all your businesse with me?

Pie. No, Lady, tis but the induction too'te. You may beleue my straines, I strike all true, And if your conscience would leap vp to your tongue, your selfe would affirme it: and that you shall perceiue I knowe of things to come as well as I doe of what is present, a Brother of your husbands shall shortly haue a losse.

Wid. A losse; marry, heauen for-fend! *Sir Godfrey*, my brother? 260

Pie. Nay, keepe in your wonders, till I haue told you the fortunes of you all; which are more fearefull, if not happily preuented:—for your part & your daughters, if there be not once this day some bloud-shed before your

dore, wheerof the humaine creature dies, two of you—the elder—shall run mad. 267

Mother and Franck. Oh!

Mol. That's not I yet!

Pie. And with most impudent prostitution show your naked bodies to the vew of all beholders.

Wid. Our naked bodies? fie, for shame!

Pie. Attend mee: and your yonger daughter bee strocken dumbe. 275

Mol. Dumbe? out, alas: tis the worst paine of all for a Woman. Ide rather bee madde, or runne naked, or any thing: dumbe?

Pie. Giue eare: ere the euening fall vpon Hill, Bogge, and Meadow, this my speech shal haue past probation, and then shal I be belieued accordingly. 282

Widdow. If this bee true, wee are all sham'de, all vndon.

Mol. Dumbe? Ile speake as much as euer I can possible before euening! 286

Pie. But if it so come to passe (as for your faire sakes I wish it may) that this presage of your strange fortunes be preuented by that accident of death and bloud-shedding which I before told you off: take heed vpon your liues that two of you, which haue vpon'd neuer to marry, seeke you out husbands with all present speede, and you, the third, that haue such a desire to out-strip chastitie, looke you meddle not with a husband. 296

Moll. A double torment.

Pyb. The breach of this keepest your father in Purgatorie, and the punishments that shall follow you in this world would with horror kill the Eare should heare 'em related. 301

Wid. Marry? why I vowd neuer to marry.

Franke. And so did I.

Moll. And I vowde neuer to be such an Asse, but to marry: what a crosse Fortune's this! 306

Pyb. Ladies, tho I bee a Fortune-teller, I cannot better Fortunes; you haue 'em from me as they are reueald to me: I would they were to your tempers, and fellows with your blouds, that's all the bitterness I would you.

Widdow. Oh, 'tis a iust vengeance for my husbands hard purchases. 313

Pyb. I wish you to be-thinke your selues, and leaue 'em.

Wid. Ile to *Sir Godfrey*, my Brother, and acquaint him with these fearefull presages.

Franck. For, Mother, they portend losses to him.

Wid. Oh, I, they doe, they doe. 320

222-6 *End* scrape, dirt, own, me, shudder *M* 225
Ends oh, *Q*, *Ff* 237 guests *F2*: guesse *Q*, *F1*
 242 tad] it had *M*

266-7 of you two the elder *Ff* eldest *R* 286
 possibly *M* 293 you *om.* *Ff*, etc. 315 leaue *m* *Q*

If any happy issue crowne thy words,
I will reward thy cunning.

Pyb. 'Tis enough Lady; I wish no higher.

[*Exit (Wid. and Fran.)*]

Mol. Dumbel and not marry, worse! 324
Neither to speake, nor kisse, a double curse.

[*Exit.*]

Pyb. So all this comes well about yet. I play the Fortune-teller as well as if I had had a Fort to my Grannam: for by good happinesse, being in my Hostisses Garden, which neighbours the Orchard of the Widdow, I laid the hole of mine eare to a hole in the wall, and heard 'em make these vowes, & speake those words vpon which I wrought these aduantages; and to encourage my forgerie the more, I may now perceiue in 'em a naturall simplicitie which will easily swallow an abuse, if any couering be ouer it: and to confirme my former presage to the Widdow, I haue aduizde old *Peter Skirmish*, the Souldier, to hurt Corporall *Oth* vpon the Leg; and in that hurry Ile rush amongst 'em, and in stead of giuing the Corporall some Cordiall to comfort him, Ile power into his mouth a potion of a sleepy Nature, to make him seeme as dead; for the which the old souldier beeing apprehended, and ready to bee borne to execution, Ile step in, & take vpon me the cure of the dead man, vpon paine of dying the condemneds death: the Corporall will wake at his minute, when the sleepy force has wrought it selfe, and so shall I get my selfe into a most admired opinion, and vnder the pretext of that cunning, beguile as I see occasion: and if that foolish *Nicholas Saint Tantlings* keepe true time with the chaine, my plot will be sound, the Capitaine deliuered, and my wits applauded among schollers and souldiers for euer. 357

[*Exit Py-boord.*]

(SCENE II. A Garden.)

Enter Nicholas Saint Tantlings with the chaine.

Nic. Oh, I haue found an excellent aduantage to take away the chaine: my Maister put it off e'en now to say on a new Doublet, and I sneak't it away by little & little most Puritanically. Wee shal haue good sport anon when ha's mist it about my Cozen the Coniurer. The world shall see I'me an honest man of my word, for now I'me going to hang it betweene Heauen & Earth among the Rose-mary branches. [*Exit Nich.*]

323 S. D. Wid. etc. add. R 357 amongst F², etc.
Scene II. etc. add. M 6 ha's Q: has F¹: he has F², etc.

Actus 3.

(SCENE I. The street before the Widdow's house.)

Enter Simon Saint Mary-Oueries and Frailty.

Frai. Sirrah *Simon Saint Mary-Oueries*, my Mistris sends away all her suiters and puts fleas in their eares.

Sim. Frailty, she dos like an honest, chaste, and vertuous woman; for widdowes ought not to wallow in the puddle of iniquity. 6

Fra. Yet, *Simon*, many widdowes will do't, what so comes on't.

Sim. True, *Frailtie*, their filthy flesh desires a Coniunction Copulatiue. What strangers are within, *Frailty*? 11

Frai. Ther's none, *Simon*, but Maister *Pilfer* the Tailor: he's about with *Sir Godfreie* praysing of a Doublet; and I must trudge anon to fetch Maister Suds, the Barber. 15

Simon. Maister Suds,—a good man; he washes the sinns of the Beard cleane.

Enter old Skirmish the souldier.

Skir. How now, creatures? whats a clock?

Frai. Why, do you take vs to be Iacke ath' Clock-house? 20

Skir. I say agen to you what's a clocke?

Sim. Truly la, wee goe by the clocke of our conscience: all worldly Clockes, we know, goe false, and are set by drunken Sextons. 24

Skir. Then what's a clock in your conscience?—oh, I must breake off, here comes the corporall—hum, hum!—what's a clock?

Enter Corporall.

Corp. A clock? why, past seuteenee.

Frai. Past seuteenee? nay, ha's met with his match now, Corporall *Oth* will fit him. 30

Skir. Thou doost not bawke or baffle me, doost thou? I am a Souldier—past seuteene!

Corp. I, thou art not angry with the figures, art thou? I will prooue it vnto thee: 12. and 1. is thirteene, I hope, 2. foureteene, 3. fifteene, 4. sixteene, and 5. seauenteene; then past seauenteene: I will take the Dyals part in a iust cause.

Skir. I say 'tis but past fiae, then. 40

Corp. Ile sweare 'tis past seauenteene, then: doost thou not know numbers? canst thou not cast?

Scene I. etc. add. M 16 Sud's a Ff S. D.
follows 18 Q, Ff soulders Q: corr. F² 19-20 at
'h Q: at th' Ff Jacks o' the M 21, 25, 27 what
is't o'clock M

Skir. Cast? dost thou speake of my casting
ith' street? [Draw.]

Corp. I, and in the Market place. 46

Sim. Clubs, clubs, clubs!

[Simon runs in.]

Frail. I, I knew by their shuffling, Clubs
would be Trumpe; masse, here's the Knaue,
and hee can doe any good vpon 'em: Clubs,
clubs, clubs! 51

Enter Py-board.

Corp. O villaine, thou hast open'd a vaine
in my leg.

Pyb. How now! for shame, for shame; put
vp, put vp. 55

Corp. By yon blew Welkin, 'twas out of
my part, *George*, to bee hurt on the leg.

Enter Officers.

Pyb. Oh peace now—I haue a Cordiall here
to comfort thee.

Offi. Downe with 'em, downe with em; lay
hands vpon the villaine. 61

Skir. Lay hands on me?

Pyb. Ilc not be seene among em now.

[Exit Pyeboard.]

Corp. Ime hurt, and had more need haue
Surgeons

Lay hands vpon me then rough Officers.

Offi. Goe, carry him to be drest then. 66

[Exeunt some of the Sheriffs Officers
with Corporal Oath.]

This mutinous Souldier shall along with me to
prison.

Skir. To prison? where's *George*?

Offi. Away with him. [Exeunt with Skir.]

[Re-enter Pyeboard.]

Pyb. So. 71

All lights as I would wish. The amaz'd
widdow

Will plant me strongly now in her beleefe,

And wonder at the vertue of my words:

For the euent turnes those presages from
em 75

Of being mad and dumbe, and begets
ioy

Mingled with admiration. These emptie crea-
tures,

Souldier and Corporall, were but ordain'd

As instruments for me to worke vpon.

Now to my patient; here's his potion. 80

[Exit Pyboard.]

52, 56, 64 *Prefix Cap. Q. Ff* 63 *S. D. add. M*

66 *S. D. add. M* after 68 70 *hem Q* *S. D.*

Scene II. The same. Re-enter Pyeboard *M* 75

cm] them *M*

[SCENE II. *An apartment in the Widow's
house.*]

*Enter the Widdow with her two
Daughters.*

Wid. O wondrous happinesse, beyond our
thoughts:

O luckie faire euent! I thinke our fortunes,
Were blest een in our Cradles: we are quitted
Of all those shamefull violent presages

By this rash bleeding chance. Goe, *Frailtie*,
run, and know, 5

Whether he be yet liuing, or yet dead,
That here before my doore receiud his hurt.

Frail. Madam, hee was carryed to the
superiour, but if he had no money when hee
came there, I warrant hee's dead by this time.

[Exit Frailtie.]

Franck. Sure, that man is a rare fortune-
teller; neuer lookt vpon our hands, nor vpon
any marke about vs: a wondrous fellow, surelie,

Moll. I am glad, I haue the vse of my
tongue yet: tho of nothing else. I shall finde
the way to marry too, I hope, shortly. 16

Wid. O where's my Brother, sir *Godfrey*?
I would hee were here, that I might relate to
him how prophetically the cunning Gentleman
spoke in all things. 20

Enter Sir Godfrey in a rage.

Sir Godf. O my Chaine, my Chaine! I haue
lost my Chaine. Where be these Villains,
Varlets?

Wid. Oh! has lost his Chaine.

Sir Godf. My Chaine, my chaine! 25

Widdow. Brother, bee patient, heare mee
speake: you know I told you that a cunning
man told me that you should haue a losse, and
he has prophici'd so true. 29

Sir Godf. Out, he's a villaine, to prophcy
of the losse of my chaine: twas worth aboue
three hundred Crownes,—besides, twas my
Fathers, my fathers fathers, my Grand-fathers
huge grand-fathers. I had as lieue ha lost my
Neck, as the chaine that hung about it. O, my
chaine, my chaine! 36

Wid. Oh, brother, who can be against a
misfortune! tis happy twas no more.

Sir Godf. No, more! O goodly godly sister,
would you had me lost more? my best gowne,
too, with the cloth of gold-lace? my holiday
Gascoines, and my Ierkin set with pearle? no
more! 43

Wid. Oh, Brother! you can reade—

Scene II. etc.] Scene III. etc. *M* 9 superiour]
surgeon comp. *St.* 24 has *Q*: h'as *Ff*: he has *M*
34 lieue *Ff*: liue *Q* 44 had] (?) have had

Sir Godf. But I cannot reade where my chaine is.—What strangers haue bene here? you let in strangers, Theeues, and Catch-poles; how comes it gonne? there was none aboue with mee but my Taylor; and my Taylor will not—steale, I hope? 50

Mol. No, he's afraide of a chaine!

Enter Fraylty.

Wid. How now, sirrah? the newes?

Fray. O Mistres, he may well be cald a Corporall now, for his corpes are as dead as a cold Capons. 55

Wid. More happinesse.

Sir Godf. Sirrah, what's this to my chaine? where's my chaine, knaue?

Fray. Your chaine, sir?

Sir Godf. My chaine is lost, villaine. 60

Fray. I would hee were hang'd in chaines that has it then for me. Alasse, sir, I saw none of your chaine, since you were hung with it your selfe.

Sir Godf. Out, varlet! it had full three thousand Lincks. 65

I haue oft told it ouer at my praiers:

Ouer and ouer, full three thousand Lincks.

Frayl. Had it so, sir: sure, it cannot be lost then; Ile put you in that comfort.

Sir Godf. Why, why? 70

Frayl. Why, if your chaine had so many Lincks, it cannot chuse but come to light.

Enter Nicholas.

Sir Godf. Delusion! now, long *Nicholas*, wheres my chaine?

Nich. Why, about your Neck, ist not, sir?

Sir Godf. About my neck, Varlet! My chaine is lost. 75

This stole away, I me robd.

Wid. Nay, Brother, show your selfe a man.

Nic. I, if it be lost or stole, if he would be patient, Mistres, I could bring him to a Cunning Kinsman of mine that would fetcht againe with a Sesarara. 81

Sir Godf. Canst thou? I will be patient: say, where dwells he?

Nic. Marry, he dwells now, Sir, where he would not dwell, and he could choose: in the Marshalsea, sir; but hee's an exlent fellow if he were out; has trauid all the world ore, he, and bene in the seauen and twenty Prouinces: why, he would make it be fetcht, Sir, if twere rid a thousand mile out of towne. 90

Sir Godf. An admirable fellow: what lies he for?

Nic. Why, hee did but rob a Steward of ten

54 are] is *M*

87 has] ha's *Ff*

groats tother Night, as any man would ha done, and there he lies fort. 95

Sir Godf. Ile make his peace: a Trifle! Ile get his pardon,

Beside a bountifull reward. Ile about it.

But see the Clearkes, the Iustice will doe much.

I will about it straight: good sister, pardon me.

All will be well, I hope, and turne to good, 100

The name of Coniurer has laid my blood.

[*Exeunt.*

(SCENE III. *A street.*)

Enter two seriants (with Yeoman Dogson) to arrest the Scholer, George Pyeboord.

Put. His Hostesse where he lies will trust him no longer: she has feed me to arest him; and if you will accompany me, because I know not of what Nature the Scholler is, whether desperate or swift, you shall share with me, Seriant *Rauen-shaw*. I haue the good Angell to arrest him. 7

Rauen. Troth, Ile take part with thee, then, Sariant, not for the sake of the mony so much, as for the hate I beare to a Scholler: why, Seriant, tis Naturall in vs, you know, to hate Scholers, naturall: besides, they will publish our imperfections, Knaueries, and Conuayances vpon Scaffolds and Stages. 14

Put. I, and spitefully, to; troth, I haue wonderd how the slaues could see into our brests so much, when our doublets are buttond with Pewter. 18

Rauen. I, and so close without yeelding; oh, their parlous fellows, they will search more with their wits then a Cunstale with all his officers.

Put. Whist, whist, whist! Yeoman *Dogson* Yeoman *Dogson*.

Dog. Ha, what saies Sariant? 25

Put. Is he in the Potheccaries shop stil?

Dog. I, I.

Put. Haue an eye, (haue an) eye.

Rauen. The best is, Sariant, if he be a true Scholler, he weares no weapon, I thinke. 30

Put. No, no, he weares no weapon.

Rauen. Masse, I am right glad of that: 'tas put me in better heart. Nay, if I clutch him once, let me alone to drage him if he be stiff-necked. I haue bene one of the sixe my selfe, that has dragd as tall men of their hands, when their weapons haue bin gone, as euer bastinadoed a Sariant—I haue done, I can tel you. 39

97 Besides *Ff*, etc. Scene III. etc.] Scene IV.
etc. *M* S. D. with, etc. add. *Ff* 3 and om. *Ff*
12 besides] because conj. *M* 17 doubters *Q* 28
haue an add. *Ff* 1

Dog. Sariant *Puttocke*, Sariant *Puttocke*.

Put. Hoh.

Dog. Hees comming out single.

Put. Peace, peace, bee not to greedy; let him play a little, let him play a little: wee leierke him vp of a sudaine. I ha fisht in my time. 46

Rauen. I, and caught many a foole, Seriant.

Enter Pyeboard.

Pye. I parted now from *Nicholas*: the chaynes coucht, And the old Knight has spent his rage vpon; The widdowe holds me in great Admiration For cunning Art: mongst ioyes I am 'een lost, For my deuce can no way now be crost. 52 And now I must to prison to the captaine, And there—

Put. I arrest you, sir. 55

Pye. Oh—I spoke truer then I was a ware, I must to prison indeed.

Put. They say your a scholler: nay, sir—Yeoman *Dogson*, haue care to his armes—youle rayle againe Sariants, and stage 'em! you tickle their vices! 61

Pye. Nay, vse me like a Gentleman, I'me little lesse.

Put. You a Gentleman? thats a good Iest, ifaith; can a Scholler be a Gentleman,—when a Gentleman will not be a Scholler? looke vpon your welthy Citizeness sonnes, whether they be Scholers or no, that are Gentlemen by their fathes trades: a Scholler a Gentleman! 69

Pye. Nay, let Fortune driue all her stings into me, she cannot hurt that in me: a Gentleman is *Accidens Inseperabile* to my bloud.

Rauen. A rablement, nay, you shall haue a bloody rablement vpon you, I warrant you.

Put. Goe, Yeoman *Dogson*, before, and Enter the Action 'ith Counter. 76

Pie. Pray do not hand me Cruelly, Ile goe, [*Exet Dogson.*]

Whether you please to haue me.

Put. Oh, hees tame; let him loose, seriant.

Pie. Pray, at whose sute is this? 80

Put. Why at your Hostisses suite where you lie, Mistres *Cunnyburrow*, for bed and boord, the somme foure pound fife shillings and fife pence.

Pie. I know the somme to true, yet I pre-sumde 85

Vpon a farder daie; well, tis my starres And I must beare it now, tho neuer harder. I sweare now, my deuce is crost indeed.

Captaine must lie bite: this is Deceytes seed.

Put. Come, come away. 90

Pye. Pray, giue me so much time as to knit my garter, and Ile a way with you.

Put. Well, we must be paid for this waiting vpon you, this is no paynes to attend thus. 94
[*(Pyboard)* Making to tie his garter.

Pye. I am now wretched, and miserable. I shall nere recouer of this disease: hot Yron gnaw their fists! they haue strucke a Feuer into my shoulder, which I shall nere shake out agen, I feare me, till with a true *Habeas Corpus* the Sexton remouue me. Oh, if I take prison once, I shall bee prest to death with Actions, but not so happy as speedilie; perhaps I may bee forty yeare a pressing, till I be a thin old man; that, looking through the grates, men may looke through me. All my meanes is confounded: what shall I doe? has my wits serued me so long, and now giue me the slippe (like a Traynd seruant) when I haue most need of 'em? no deuce to keepe my poore carcasse from these *Puttocks*?—yes, happines! haue I a paper about me now? yes, too! Ile trie it, it may hit: *Extremity is Touch-stone vnto wit.* I, I. 113

Put. Sfoot, how many yards are in thy Garters, that thou art so long a tying on them? come away, sir.

Pyb. Troth, Seriant, I protest, you could neuer ha tooke me at a worse time; for now at this instant I haue no lawfull picture about me. 120

Put. Slid, how shall we come by our fees then?

Rau. We must haue fees, Sirra.

Pib. I could ha wisht, ifaith, that you had tooke me halfe an hower hence for your owne sake; for I protest, if you had not crost me, I was going in great ioy to receiue fife pound of a Gentleman, for the Deuce of a Maske here, drawne in this paper. But now, come, I must be contented: tis but so much lost, and answerable to the rest of my fortunes. 131

Put. Why, how far hence dwells that Gentleman?

Rau. I, well said, seriant, tis good to cast about for mony. 135

Put. Speake; if it be not far—

Pyb. We are but a little past it, the next street behind vs. 138

Put. Slid, we haue waited vpon you grieuously already: if youlesay youle be liberall when you hate, giue vs double fees, and spend

53 Ends there *Q, Ff* 61 you'll *M* 72 is om.
Ff 77-8 *Prose M* 82 Mistres *Q* 88 swcare]
fear conj. *M*

89 bite] by't *Ff, etc.* 106 haue *M* wit *Q, Ff*
110 fro] from *Ff, etc.* 112 the touchstone *M* 121
we] *Q* 141 hate] ha't *Ff*; haue it *M*

vpon's, why wee show you that kindnes, and goe along with you to the Gentleman.

Rau. I, well said still, seriant, vrge that. 144

Pyb. Troth, if it will suffice, it shall be all among you; for my part ile not pocket a penny: my hostisse shall haue her foure pound fife shillings, and bate me the fife pence, and the other fiftene shillings Ile spend vpon you. 149

Rauinsh. Why, now thou art a good Scholler.

Put. An excellent Scholler, Ifaith; has proceeded very well alate; come, wee along with you. 154

[*Exeunt with him: passing in they knock at the doore with a Knocker withinside.*]

(SCENE IV. *A gallery in a gentleman's house.*)

Enter a Servant.)

Ser. Who knocks? whose at doore? we had need of a Porter.

Pyb. A few friends here:—pray, is the Gentleman your maister within?

Ser. Yes, is your businesse to him? 5

Pyb. I, he knows it, when he see's me: I pray you, haue you forgot mee?

Ser. I, by my troth, sir. Pray come neere; Ile in and tell him of you: please you to walke here in the Gallery till he comes. 10

Pyb. Wee will attend his worship.—Worship, I thinke, for so much the Posts at his doore should signifie, and the faire comming in, and the wicket; else I neither knew him nor his worship, but 'tis happinesse he is within doores, what so ere he bee: if he be not too much a formall Citizen, hee may doe me good.—Seriant and Yeoman, how doe you like this house? ist not most wholsomly plotted? 15

Rauen. Troth, prisoner, an exceeding fine house. 21

Pyb. Yet I wonder how hee should forget me,—for hee nere knew mee.—No matter, what is forgot in you will bee remembred in your Maister. A pritty comfortable roome this, me thinkes: You haue no such roomes in prison now?

Put. Oh, dog-holes toote. 28

Pyb. Dog-holes, indeed. I can tell you, I haue great hope to haue my Chamber here shortly, nay, and dyet too, for hee's the most free-hartedst Gentleman where he takes: you would little thinke it! and what a fine Gallery were here for mee to walke and study, and make verses. 35

[*Scene IV. etc.*] *Scene V. etc.* M 24 you . . your] him . . his conp. M

Put. O, it stands very pleasantly for a Scholler.

Enter Gentleman.

Pyb. Looke what maps, and pictures, and deuices, and things: neatly, delicately—masse, here he comes: he should be a Gentleman; I like his Beard well.—All happinesse to your worship. 42

Gentle. You're kindly welcome, sir.

Put. A simple salutation.

Rauen. Masse, it seemes the Gentleman makes great account of him.

Pyb. I haue the thing here for you, sir. 47

Pyb. I beseech you conceale me, sir, I me vndone else,—I haue the Maske here for you, sir, Looke you, sir.—I beseech your worship first to pardon my rudenesse, for my extreames makes mee boulder then I would bee. I am a poore Gentleman and a Scholler, and now most vnfortunately false into the Fangs of vnmercifull officers, arrested for debt, which tho small, I am not able to compasse, by reason I me destitute of lands, money, and friends; so that if I fall into the hungrie swallow of the prison, I am like vtterly to perish, and with fees and extortions be pincht cleane to the bone. Now, if euer pittty had interest in the bloud of a Gentleman, I beseech you vouchsafe but to fauour that meanes of my escape, which I haue already thought vpon.

Gent. Goe forward. 65

Put. I warrant he likes it rarely.

Pyb. In the plundge of my extremities, being giddy, and doubtfull what to doe, at last it was put into my labouring thoughts, to make happy vse of this paper; and to bleare their vnlettered eyes, I told them there was a Deuice for a Maske drawne int', and that (but for their interception,) I was going to a Gentleman to receiue my reward for't: they, greedy at this word, and hoping to make purchase of me, offered their attendance, to goe along with mee. My hap was to make bolde with your doore, Sir, which my thoughts showde mee the most fairest and comfortablest entrance, and I hope I haue happened right vpon vnderstanding and pittty: may it please your good Worship, then, but to vphold my Deuice, which is to let one of your men put me out at back-doore, and I shall bee bound to your worship for euer. 85

Gent. By my troth, an excellent deuice.

Puttock. An excellent deuice, hee sayes; hee likes it wonderfully.

47 *Prefix* Gent. *Ff* 54 *Fangs* Q: hands *Ff* 69-70 make a happy *Ff*, etc. 84 at] at a *Ff*, etc.

Gent. A my faith, I neuer heard a better.

Rauenshaw. Harke, hee swears hee neuer heard a better, Serieant. 91

Put. O, there's no talke on't, hees an excellent Scholler, and especially for a Maske.

Gent. Giue me your Paper, your Deuice; I was neuer better please in all my life: good witte, braue witte, finely rought! come in, sir, and receiue your money, sir. 97

Pyb. Ile follow your good Worship.— You heard how he likte it now?

Put. Puh, we know hee could not choose but like it: goe thy wayes; thou art a witty fine fellow, ifaith, thou shalt discourse it to vs at Tauerne anon, wilt thou? 103

Pyb. I, I, that I will. Looke, Seriants, here are Maps, and prittie toyes: be dooing in the meane time. I shall quickly haue told out the money, you know. 107

Put. Goe, goe, little villaine, fetch thy chinck. I begin to loue thee; Ile be drunke to night in thy company.

Pyb. (*Aside*) This Gentleman I may well call a part

Of my saluation, in these earthly euils, 112
For hee has sau'd mee from three hungrie Deuils. [*Exit* George.

Puttock. Sirrah Seriant, these Mappes are prittie painted things, but I could nere fancie em yet: mee thinks they're too busie, and full of Circles and Coniurations; they say all the world's in one of them, but I could nere finde the Counter in the Poultrie. 119

Rauen. I thinke so: how could you finde it? for you know it stands behind the houses.

Dagson. Masse, thats true; then we must looke ath' back-side fort. Sfoote, here's nothing, all's bare.

Rauen. I warrant thee, that stands for the Counter, for you know theres a company of bare fellowes there. 127

Put. Faith, like enough, Seriant; I neuer markt so much before. Sirrah Seriant, and Yeoman, I should loue these Maps out a crye now, if wee could see men peepe out of doore in em: oh, wee might haue em in a morning to our Breake-fast so finely, and nere knocke our heeles to the ground a whole day for em.

Rauen. I, marry, sir, Ide buye one then my selfe. But this talke is by the way: where shall's sup to night? Fiue pound receiue'd! let's talke of that. I haue a trick worth all: you two shall beare him to 'th Tauerne, whilst I goe close with his Hostisse, and worke out of her. I know shee would bee glad of the

summe to finger money, because shee knowes tis but a desperat debt, and full of hazard. What will you say, if I bring it to passe that the Hostisse shall bee contented with one halfe for all; and wee to share tother fifty-shillings, bullies? 147

Put. Why, I would call thee King of Seriants, and thou shouldst be Chronicled in the Counter booke for euer.

Ra. Well, put it to me, weele make a Night on't, yfaith.

Dog. Sfoote, I thinke he receiues more money, he staies so long. 154

Put. Hee tarries long, indeed: may be, I can tell you, vpon the good liking ont the Gentleman may proue more bountifull.

Ra. That would be rare; weele search him.

Put. Nay, be sure of it, weele search him! and make him light ynough. 160

Enter the Gentleman.

Ra. Oh, here comes the Gentleman. By your leaue, sir.

Gen. God you god den, sirs,—would you speake with me? 164

Put. No, not with your worship, sir; only wee are bould to stay for a friend of ours that went in with your worship.

Gen. Who? not the scholler?

Put. Yes, e'en he, and it please your worship. 170

Gen. Did he make you stay for him? hee did you wrong, then: why, I can assure you hees gon aboue an houre agoe.

Ra. How, sir?

Gent. I payd him his money, and my man told me he went out at back-dore. 176

Put. Back-dore?

Gen. Why, whats the matter?

Put. He was our prisoner, sir; we did arrest him. 180

Gen. What! he was not! you the Sheriffes Officers! You were to blame then. Why did you not make knowne to me as much? I could haue kept him for you: I protest he receiude all of me in *Brittaine* Gold of the last coynng. 186

Ra. Vengeance dog him with't!

Put. Sfoote, has he guld vs so?

Dog. Where shall wee sup now Serieants?

Put. Sup, *Simon*, now! eate Porridge for a month. Well, we cannot impute it to any lacke of good-will in your Worship,—you did but as another would haue done: twas our hard fortunes to misse the purchase, but if

111 Gentlemen Q 130 out of cry M 135 then
om. Ff 135-8 I. . that] Verse Q, Ff

146 fift-shillings Q S. D. Gentlemen Q 163
God] Give S 183-6 Verse Q

ere wee clutch him againe, the Counter shall charme him. 196

Rauen. The hole shall rotte him.

Dog. Amen. [Exeunt.

Gent. So,

Vex out your Lungs without doores. I am proud, 200

It was my hap to helpe him; it fell fit.

He went not emptie neither for his wit.

Alasse, poore wretch, I could not blame his braine

To labour his deliuerie, to be free

From their vnpytting fangs—I me glad it stood 205

Within my power to doe a Scholler good. [Exit.

(SCENE V. *A room in the Marshalsea prison.*)

Enter in the Prison, meeting, George and Captaine, George comming in muffled.

Capt. How now, whose that? what are you?

Pyb. The same that I should be, Captaine.

Capt. *George Pye-boord, honest George?* why camst thou in halfe fac'd, muffled so? 4

Pyb. Oh, Captaine, I thought we should nere ha laught agen, neuer spent frolick houre agen.

Capt. Why? why?

Pyb. I comming to prepare thee, and with newes

As happy as thy quick deliuerie, 10
Was trac'd out by the sent, arrested, Captaine.

Capt. Arrested, *George!*

Pyb. Arrested: gesse, gesse; how many Dogges doe you thinke Ide vpon me?

Capt. Dogs? I say? I know not. 15

Pyb. Almost as many as *George Stone* the Beare:

Three at once, three at once.

Capt. How didst thou shake 'em of, then?

Pyb. The time is busie, and calls vpon our witts.

Let it suffice, 20
Here I stand safe, and scapt by miracle.

Some other houre shall tell thee, when weelee steepe

Our eyes in laughter. Captaine, my deuce

Leanes to thy happinesse, for ere the day

Be spent toth' Girdle, thou shalt be set free. 25

The Corporal's in his first sleepe, the Chaine is mist,

Thy Kinsman has exprest thee, and the old Knight

With Palsey-hams now labours thy release:

What rests is all in thee, to Coniure, Captaine.

Capt. Coniure! sfoote, *George*, you know the deuill a coniuring I can coniure. 31

Pib. The Deuill of coniuring? nay, by my fay, Ide not haue thee do so much, Captaine, as the Deuill a coniuring: looke here, I ha brought thee a circle ready characterd and all.

Capt. Sfoote, *George*, art in thy right wittes? doost know what thou saist? why doost talke to a Captaine a coniuring? didst thou euer heare of a Captaine coniure in thy life? doost cal't a Circle? tis too wide a thing, me thinks: had it beene a lesser Circle, then I knew what to haue done. 42

Pib. Why, euery foole knowes that, Captaine: nay, then, Ile not cogge with you, Captaine; if youle stay and hang the next Sessions, you may.

Capt. No, by my faith, *George*: come, come, lets to coniuring, lets to coniuring. 48

Pib. But if you looke to be releas—as my wittes haue tooke paine to worke it, and all meanes wrought to farther it—besides to put crownes in your purse, to make you a man of better hopes, and whereas before you were a Captaine or poore Souldier, to make you now a Commander of rich fooles, (which is truly the onely best purchase peace can allow you) safer then High-wayes, Heath, or Cunyngroues, and yet a farre better bootie; for your greatest theeuers are neuer hand, neuer hand, for, why, they're wise, and cheate within doores: and wee geld fooles of more money in one night, then your false tailde Gelding will purchase in a twelue-moneths running; which confirms the olde Beldamssaying, hee's wisest, that keeps himselfe warmest; that is, hee that robs by a good fire— 66

Capt. Well opened, yfaith, *George*; thou hast puld that saying out of the huske.

Pib. Captaine *Idle*, tis no time now to delude or delay: the old Knight will be here suddenly. Ile perfect you, direct you, tell you the trick on't: tis nothing. 72

Capt. Sfoote, *George*, I know not what to say toot: coniure? I shall be hangd ere I coniure. 75

Pyb. Nay, tell not me of that, Captaine; youle nere coniure after your hand, I warrant you. Looke you, sir, a parlous matter, sure! first, to spread your circle vpon the ground, then, with a little coniuring ceremonie, as Ile

Scene V. etc.] Scene VI. etc. M 19-20 One line Q, Ff 25 set om. Ff, etc. shalt sure be free S

32 of] a M 38 captain of M 40 me] my Q
47-8 let's to conjuring once Ff, etc. 54 of poor
soldiers conj. M 57 Hig-wayes Q 60 for why?
Ff, etc. 63 a om. M 71 tell] till Q

haue an Hackney-mans wand siluerd ore a purpose for you,—then arriuing in the circle, with a huge word, and a great trample, as for instance:—haue you neuer seene a stalking-stamping Player, that will raise a tempest with his tounge, and thunder with his heeles? 86

Cap. O yes, yes, yes: often, often.

Pyb. Why, be like such a one, for any thing will bleare the old Knights eyes: for you must note that heele nere dare to venture into the roome, onely perhaps peepe fearefully through the Key hole, to see how the Play goes forward. 93

Capt. Well, I may goe about it when I will, but marke the end ont: I shall but shame my selfe, ifaith, *George*. Speake big words, and stampe and stare, and he looke in at Key-hole! why, the very thought of that would make me laugh out-right, and spoile all: nay, Ile tell thee, *George*, when I apprehend a thing once, I am of such a laxatiue laughter, that if the Deuill him-selfe stood by, I should laugh in his face. 103

Pyb. Puh, thats but the babe of a man, and may easily bee husht; as to thinke vpon some disaster, some sad misfortune, as the death of thy Father ithe Country!

Cap. Sfoote, that would be the more to driue me into such an extasie, that I should nere lin laughing. 110

Pib. Why, then, thinke vpon going to hanging else.

Cap. Masse, that's well remembered; now ile do well, I warrant thee, nere feare me now: but how shall I do, *George*, for boysterous words, and horrible names? 116

Pyb. Puh, any fustian inuocations, Capitaine, will serue as well as the best, so you rant them out well; or you may goe to a Pothecaries shop, and take all the words from the Boxes. 121

Cap. Troth, and you say true, *George*; there's strange words enow to raise a hundred Quack-saluers, tho they be nere so poore when they begin. But here lyes the feare on't, how (if) in this false coniuration, a true Deuill should pop vp indeed? 127

Pyb. A true Deuill, Capitaine? why there was nere such a one: nay, faith, hee that has this place is as false a Knaue as our last Church-warden. 131

Capt. Then hees false inough a conscience, ifaith, *George*.

The Crie at Marshalsea.

Crie prisoners. Good Gentlemen ouer the

112 else om. F2, etc.

126 if add. F2

way, send your reliefe. Good Gentlemen ouer the way,—Good sir *Godfrey*! 136

Pyb. Hees come, hees come.

Nich. Maister, thats my Kinsman yonder in the Buff Jerkin—Kinsman, thats my Maister yonder ith' Taffetie Hatt—prays salute him intirely! [*They salute: and Py-boord salutes Maister Edmond.*]

Sir God. Now, my friend.

Pib. May I pertake your name, sir?

Edm. My name is Maister *Edmund*.

Pyb. Maister *Edmond*?—are you not a Welchman, sir? 146

Edm. A Welshman? why?

Pyb. Because Maister is your Christen name, and *Edmond* your sir name.

Edm. O no; I haue more names at home: Maister *Edmund Plus* is my full name at length. 152

Pyb. O, crie you mercy, sir. (*Whispering.*)

Cap. I vnderstand that you are my Kinsmans good Maister, and in regard of that, the best of my skill is at your seruice: but had you fortune a meere stranger, and made no meanes to me by acquaintance, I should haue vtterly denied to haue beene the man; both by reason of the Act past in Parliament against Coniurers and Witches, as also, because I would not haue my Arte vulgar, trite, and common. 163

Sir Godf. I much commend your care therein, good Capitaine Coniurer, and that I will be sure to haue it priuate enough, you shall doote in my Sisters house,—mine owne house, I may call it, for both our charges therein are proportiond.

Capt. Very good, sir—what may I call your losse, sir? 171

Sir Godf. O you may call't a great losse, sir, a grieuous losse, sir; as goodly a Chaine of gold, tho I say it, that wore it: how saiest thou, *Nicholas*? 175

Nich. O 'twas as delicious a Chaine a Gold! Kinsman, you know,—

Sir God. You know? did you know't, Capitaine? 179

Capt. Trust a foole with secrets!—Sir, hee may say I know: his meaning is, because my Arte is such, that by it I may gather a knowledge of all things.

Sir Godf. I, very true. 184

Capt. A pax of all foolles—the excuse stucke vpon my tounge like Ship-pitch vpon a Mariners gowne, not to come off in hast—Ber-lady,

160 past in Q: of Ff, etc.

165 there Ff, etc'

173 sir om. Ff, etc.

176 of Gold F2, etc

Knight, to loose such a faire Chaine a gold were a foule losse. Well, I can put you in this good comfort on't: if it bee betweene Heauen and Earth, Knight, Ile ha't for you.

Sir Godf. A wonderful Coniurer!—O, I, tis betweene heauen and earth, I warrant you; it cannot goe out of the realme.—I know tis some-where aboute the earth. 195

Capt. I, nigher the earth then thou wotst on.

Sir Godf. For, first, my Chaine was rich, and no rich thing shall enter into heauen, you know. 200

Nich. And as for the Deuill, Maister, he has no need on't, for you know he ha's a great chaine of his owne.

Sir Godf. Thou saiest true, *Nicholas*, but hee has put off that now; that lyes by him. 205

Capt. Faith, Knight, in few wordes, I presume so much vpon the power of my Art; that I could warrant your Chaine againe.

Sir Godf. O daintie Captaine! 209

Capt. Marry, it will cost me much sweate; I were better goe to sixteene whot-houses.

Sir Godf. I, good man, I warrant thee.

Capt. Beside great vexation of Kidney and Liuer. 214

Nich. O, twill tickle you here-about, Coozen, because you haue not beene vsde toot.

Sir Godf. No? haue you not beene vsd too't, Captaine? 218

Capt. Plague of all fooles still!—Indeed, Knight, I haue not vsde it a good while, and therefore twill straine me so much the more, you know.

Sir Godf. Oh, it will, it will. 223

Capt. What plunges hee puts me to! were not this Knight a foole, I had beene twice spoyld now; that Captaynes worse then accurst that has an asse to his Kinsman. Sfoote, I feare hee will driuell't out before I come toote.—Now, sir—to come to the poynt in deede—you see I sticke here in the iawe of the Marshalsea, and cannot doo't. 231

Sir Godf. Tut, tut, I (k)now thy meaning; thou wouldst say thou'rt a prisoner. I tell thee thou'rt none.

Capt. How none? why, is not this the Marshalsea? 236

Sir Godf. Would heare me speake? I hard of thy rare cuniuring; —

My chayne was lost; I sweate for thy release, As thou shalt doe the like at home for me.

Keeper. [Enter Keeper. 241

Keep. Sir.

Sir Godf. Speake, is not this man free? 241

188 of Gold *F* 2, etc. 195 about] about *Ff*

Keep. Yes, at his pleasure, sir, the fees dischargd.

Sir Godf. Goe, goe, Ile discharge them I. 244

Keep. I thank you worship. [Exit Keeper.

Capt. Now, trust me, yar a deere Knight. Kindnes vunexpected! oh theirs nothing to a free Gentle man.—I will cuniure for you, sir, till Froath come through my Buffe-ierkin! 249

Sir Godf. Nay, then thou shalt not passe with so little a bounty, for at the first sight of my chaine agen, Forty fine Angells shall appeare vnto thee. 253

Capt. Twil be a glorious showe, ifaith, Knight, a very fine show; but are all these of your owne house? are you sure of that, sir?

Sir Godf. I, I—no, no, whats he younder, talking with my wild Nephew? pray heauen, he giue him good counsell.

Capt. Who, he? hee's a rare friend of mine, an admirable fellow, Knight, the finest fortune-teller. 262

Sir Godf. Oh, tis he indeed that came to my Lady sister, & foretold the losse of my chaine. I am not angry with him now, for I see twas my fortune to loose it.—By your leaue, M(aister) Fortune-teller, I had a glimps on you at home at my Sisters the Widdows, there you prouised of the losse of a chaine:—simply tho I stand here, I was he that lost it.

Pie. Was it you, sir? 271

Edm. A my troth, Nunckle, hee's the rarest fellow: has told me my fortune so right; I find it so right to my nature.

Sir Godf. What ist? God send it a good one!

Edm. O, tis a passing good one, Nuncle: for he sayes I shall proue such an excelent gamster in my time, that I shall spend al faster then my father got it.

Sir Godf. There's a fortune, in deed! 280

Edm. Nay, it hits my humour so pat.

Sir Godf. I, that will be the end ont: will the Curse of the beggar preuaile so much, that the sonne shall consume that foolishlie, which the father got craftilie? I, I, I; twill, twill, twill. 286

Pie. Stay, stay, stay.

[Pyebord with an Almanack and the Captaine.

Capt. Turne ouer, *George*.

Pie. Iune—Iulie: here, *Iulie*; thats this month. Sunday thirteene, yester day forteene, to day fiteene. 291

Capt. Looke quickly for the fiteene day:—if within the compasse of these two dayes there would be some Boystrous storme or other, it would be the best, Ide defer him off till then: some tempest, and it be thy will. 296

243 fee's *Q* 252 forty five *Ff* 292 fiteenth *M*, etc.

Pie. Heres the fiteene day—hot and fayre.

Cap. Puh, would t'ad beene hot and foule.

Pie. The sixteene day; thats to morrow: the morning for the most part faire and pleasant— 301

Cap. No lucke.

Pie. But about hye-none, lightning and thunder.

Cap. Lightning and thunder! admirable, best of all: Ile coniure to morrow iust at hie none, *George.* 307

Pye. Happen but true to morrow, Almanack, and ile giue thee leaue to lie all the yeare after.

Cap. Sir, I must craue your patience, to bestowe this day vpon me, that I may furnish my selfe strongly. I sent a spirit into Lanckshire tother day, to fetch backe a knaue Drouer, and I looke for his returne this euening. To morrow morning my friend here and I will come and breake-fast with you. 316

Sir Godf. Oh, you shall be both most welcome.

Cap. And about Noone, without fayle, I purpose to coniure. 320

Sir Godf. Mid noone will be a fine time for you.

Edm. Coniuring! do you meane to coniure at our house to morrow, sir? 324

Cap. Marry, do I, sir: tis my intent, yong Gentleman.

Edm. By my troth, Ile loue you while I liue fort. O rare, *Nicholas*, we shall haue coniuring to morrowe. 329

Nic. Puhl I, I could ha tould you of that.

Cap. Law, hee could ha told him of that! foole, cockscombe, could yee?

Edm. Do you heare me, sir? I desire more acquaintance on you: you shall earne some money of me, now I knowe you can coniure; but can you fetch any that is lost? 336

Capl. Oh, any thing thats lost.

Edm. Why, looke you, sir, I tel't you as a frend and a Coniurer, I should marry a Poticaries daughter, and twas told me she lost her maidenhead at Stonie-stratford; now if youle do but so much as coniure fort, and make all whole agen—

Cap. That I will, sir.

Edm. By my troth, I thanke you, la. 345

Cap. A litle merry with your sisters sonne, sir.

Sir Godf. Oh, a simple yong man, very simple: come, Captaine, and you, sir, weele een part with a gallon of wine till to morrow breake-fast. 351

Pie. Cap. Troth, agreed, sir.

352 Prefix Tip. Cap. Q

Nic. Kinsman—Scholler?

Pye. Why, now thou art a good Knaue, worth a hundred Brownists. 355

Nic. Am I indeed, la? I thanke you truly, la. [Exeunt]

Actus. 4.

(SCENE I. *An apartment in the Widow's house.*)

Enter Moll, and Sir Iohn Penny-dub.

Penne. But I hope you will not serue a Knight so, Gentlewoman, will you? to casheere him, and cast him off at your pleasure? what, do you thinke I was dubd for nothing? no, by my faith, Ladies daughter. 5

Moll. Pray, Sir *Iohn Pennydub*, let it be deferd awhile. I haue as bigge a heart to marry as you can haue; but as the Fortune-teler told me— 9

Penny. Pax a'th Fortune-teller! would *Derecke* had beene his fortune seauen yeare agoe, to crosse my loue thus! did hee know what case I was in? why, this is able to make a man drowne himselfe in's Fathers fish-pond.

Moll. And then hee told mee more-ouer, Sir *Iohn*, that the breach of it kept my Father in Purgatorie. 17

Penny. In Purgatorie? why let him purge out his heart there, what haue we to do with that? there's Phisitions enow there to cast his water: is that any matter to vs? how can hee hinder our loue? why, let him bee hangd now hee's dead!—Well, haue I rid poste day and night, to bring you merry newes of my fathers death, and now— 25

Moll. Thy Fathers death? is the old Farmer dead?

Penny. As dead as his Barne doore, *Moll.*

Moll. And you'll keepe your word with mee now, Sir *Iohn*, that I shall haue my Coach and my Coach-man? 31

Penny. I, faith.

Moll. And two white Horses with black Fethers to draw it?

Penny. Too. 35

Moll. A guarded Lackey to run befor't, and pyed lueries to come trashing after't.

Penny. Thou shalt, *Moll.*

Moll. And to let me haue money in my purse to go whether I will. 40

Penny. All this.

Moll. Then come what so ere comes on't, weele bee made sure together before the Maides a' the Kitchin. [Exeunt]

356 truly Q: heartily Ff, etc. Scene I. etc.
add. M 7 as bigge om. Ff 44 i' the M

(SCENE II. *A room in the Widow's house, with a door at the side, leading to another apartment.*)

Enter Widdow, with her eldest Daughter Frank and Fraillie.

Wid. How now? where's my Brother, Sir *Godfrey*? went hee forth this morning?

Frail. O no, Madame, hee's about at breake-fast, with, sir reuerence, a Coniurer.

Wid. A Coniurer? what manner a fellow is he? 6

Frail. Oh, a wondrous rare fellow, Mistris, very strongly made vpward, for he goes in a Buff-ierkin: he sayes hee will fetch Sir *Godfreys* Chaine agen, if it hang betweene heauen and earth. 11

Wid. What, he will not? then hee's an exlent fellow, I warrant. How happy were that woman to be blest with such a Husband! a man a cunning! how do's hee looke, *Frailtie*? very swartlie, I warrant, with black beard, scorcht cheekes, and smokie eyebrowes. 17

Frail. Fooh, hee's neither smoake-dried, nor scorcht, nor black, nor nothing. I tell you, Madame, hee looks as faire to see to, as one of vs; I do not thinke but if you saw him once, youde take him to be a Christian. 22

Frank. So faire, and yet so cunning: that's to bee wonderd at, Mother.

Enter Sir Oliuer Muck-hill, and Sir Andrew Tip-staffe.

Muck. Blesse you, sweete Lady. 25
Tip. And you, faire Mistrisse.

[*Exit Fraillie.*]

Wid. Coades? what doe you meane, Gentlemen? fie, did I not giue you your answeres? *Muck.* Sweete Lady.

Wid. Well, I will not stick with you now for a kisse. 30

Daughter, kisse the Gentleman for once.

Frank. Yes, forsooth.

Tip. Ime proud of such a fauour.

Wid. Truly la, sir *Oliuer*, y'are much to blame to come agen, when you know my minde, so well deliuerd as a Widdow could deliuer a thing.

Muck. But I expect a farther comfort, Lady. 39

Wid. Why la you now, did I not desire you to put off your sute quite & cleane, when you came to me againe? how say you? did I not?

Scene II. *etc.* add. M 15 a man cunning Ff: a cunning man M S. D. Sir Andrew Muck-hill Ff 30 now om. Ff, *etc.*

Muc. But the sincere loue which my heart beares you— 45

Wid. Go to, ile cut you off: & Sir *Oliuer*, to put you in comfort a farre off, my fortune is read me: I must marry againe.

Muck. O blest fortune!

Wid. But not as long as I can choose;— nay, Ile hold out well. 51

Muc. Yet are my hopes now fairer.

Enter Fraillie.

Frail. O Madam, Madam.

Wid. How now, what's the hast?

[*In her eare.*]

Tipst. Faith, Mistrisse *Francis*, Ile maintaine you gallantly. Ile bring you to Court, weane you among the faire society of ladies, poore Kinswomen of mine, in cloth of siluer: beside, you shal haue your Monckie, your Parrat, your Muskat, & your pisse, pisse, pisse.

Frank. It will do very well. 61

Wid. What, dos he meane to coniure here then? how shal I do to bee rid of these Knights? —Please you, Gentlemen, to walke a while ith Garden: go gather a pinck, or a Lilly-flower.

Both. With all our hearts, Lady, and count vs fauourd. [*Exit. Within Sir Go.*]

Si. Go. Step in, *Nicholas*; looke, is the coast cleare.

Nic. Oh, as cleare as a Cattes eye, sir. 70

Sir Go. Then enter, Captaine Coniurer:—now—how like you your Roome, sir?

Enter Sir Godf. Capt. Pyb. Edm. Nick.

Cap. O, wonderfull conuenient.

Edm. I can tell you, Captaine, simplie tho it lies here, tis the fayrest Roome in my Mothers house: as dainty a Roome to Coniure in, mee thinkes—why, you may bidde, I cannot tell how many diuills welcome in't; my Father has had twentie here at once!

Pie. What, diuills? 80

Edm. Diuills? no, Deputies, & the welthiest men he could get.

Sir God. Nay, put by your chattes now, fall to your businesse roundly: the feskewe of the Diall is vpon the Chrissie-crosse of Noone, but oh, heare mee, Captaine, a qualme comes ore my stomach.

Cap. Why, what's the matter, sir?

Sir Godf. Oh, how if the diuill should proue a knaue, and teare the hangings? 90

Cap. Fuh, I warrant you, Sir *Godfrey*.

Edm. I, Nuncle, or spit fire vpp'oth seeling! *Sir Godf.* Very true, too, for tis but thin

45 bears to you Ff 52 om. Ff 65 go Q: to Ff, *etc.* 70 Cattes Q: Carter's Ff 72 your] our Ff 79 here Q: in't Ff, *etc.*

playsterd, and twill quickly take hold a the laths, and if hee chance to spit downeward too, he will burne all the boords. 96

Cap. My life for yours, Sir Godfrey.

Sir Godf. My Sister is very curious & dainty ore this Roome, I can tell, and therefore if he must needes spit, I pray desire him to spit ith Chimney. 101

Pie. Why, assure you, Sir Godfrey, he shall not be brought vp with so little manners to spit and spaule a'th flower. 104

Sir Godf. Why, I thanke you, good Captaine; pray haue a care. I, fall to your Circle; wee! not trouble you, I warrant you: come, wee! in to the next Roome, & he cause wee! be sure to keepe him out there, wee! bar vp the dore with some of the Godlies zealous workes.

Edm. That will bee a fine deuice, Nuncle, and because the ground shall be as holy as the doore, Ile teare two or three rosaries in peices, and strew the leaues about the Chamber. 114

[Thunders.

Oh, the deuill already. [runs in.

Py. Stoote, Captaine, speake somewhat for shame; it lightens & thunders before thou wilt begin: why, when?

Cap. Pray, peace, *George*,—thou'lt make mee laugh anon and spoile all. 120

Pie. Oh, now it begins agen: now, now, now, Captaine.

Cap. *Rumbos—ragdayon, pur, pur, colucundrion, Hois-Plois.*

Sir Godf. Oh admirable Coniurer! has fetcht Thunder already: 126

[*Sir Godfrey through the keyhole; within.*

Pie. Harken, harken! agen, Captaine!

Cap. *Beniamino,—gaspois—kay—gogsothoton—vmbrois.* 129

Sir Godf. Oh, I would the deuill would come away quicklie, he has no conscience to put a man to such paine.

Pie. Agen!

Cap. *Flowste—Kakopumpos—dragone—Leloomenos—hodge—podge.* 135

Pie. Well sayd, Captaine.

Sir Godf. So long a comming? oh, would I had nere begun't now, for I feare mee these roaring tempests will destroy all the fruites of the earth, and tread vpon my corne—oh!—ith Country. 141

Cap. *Gog de gog, hobgoblin, huncks, hounslow, hockley te coome parke.*

Wid. [*at the door*]. O brother, brother, what

a tempests ith Garden: sure there's some coniuration abroad. 146

Sir Godf. Tis at home, sister!

Pie. By and by, Ile step in, Captaine.

Cap. *Nunck—Nunck—Rip—Gascoynes, Ips, Drip—Droprite.* 150

Sir God. Hee drippes and droppes, poore man! alas, alas.

Pie. Now I come.

Cap. O Sulphure Sooteface—

Pie. Arch-coniurer, what wouldst thou with me? 156

Sir Godf. O the diuill, sister, ith dnyng Chamber! sing, Sister, I warrant you that will keepe him out: quickly, quickly, quickly.

[*goss in.*

Pie. So, so, so, Ile release thee: ynough, Captaine, ynough; allowe vs some time to laughe a little: they're shuddering and shaking by this time, as if an Earth-quake were in their kidneies. 164

Cap. Sirrah *George*, how wast, how wast? did I doo't well ynough?

Pie. Woul't beleue mee, Captaine? better then any Coniurer, for here was no harme in this, and yet their horrible expectation satisfied well. You were much beholding to thunder & lightning at this time: it graest you well I can tell you. 172

Cap. I must needes say so, *George*. Sirrah, if wee could ha conuoid hether cleanly a cracker or a fire-whee! t'ad beene admirable. 176

Pie. Blurt, blurt! theirs nothing remains to put thee to paine now, Captaine.

Cap. Paine? I protest, *George*, my heeles are sorer, then a Whitson Morris-dancer. 180

Pie. All's past now,—onely to reuale that the chaines ith Garden where thou knowst it has laine these two daies.

Cap. But I feare that fox *Nicholas* has reueald it already. 185

Pie. Feare not, Captaine, you must put it to'th venture now. Nay, tis time: call vpon e'm, take pitty on e'm, for I beleue some off 'em are in a pittifull case by this time.

Cap. Sir *Godfrey*? *Nicholas*, Kinsman—Sfoot, they'r fast at it still, *George*. Sir *Godfrey*!

Sir Godf. Oh, is that the diuils voyce? how comes he to know my name? 193

Cap. Feare not, Sir *Godfrey*, all's quieted. Sir *Godf*. What, is he layd?

Cap. Layde; and has newly dropt your chaine ith Garden. 197

99 ore] of M tell] tell you Ff, etc. 104 flower] floor Qq, etc. 114 leaues] pieces M S. D. runs in part of Edmond's speech Q 144 at . . door add, M

174 convey'd M 180 dancer's Ff, etc. 194-5 S. D. Enter Sir Godfrey, The Widow, Frances, and Nicholas M

Sir Godf. Ith Garden! in our Garden?

Cap. Your Garden.

Sir Godf. O sweete Coniurer! where abouts there? 201

Cap. Looke well about a banck of Rosemary.

Sir Godf. Sister, the Rosemary banck! come, come, ther's my chaine, he saies.

Wid. Oh happinesse! run, run. 206

[supposed to goe.

Edm. Captaine Coniurer?

[*Edm.* at keyhoole.

Cap. Who? Maister Edmond?

Edm. I, Maister Edmond: may I come in safely, without danger, thinke you? 210

Cap. Fuh, long agoe: tis all as twas at first. Feare nothing, pray come neere—how now, man?

Edm. Oh this Roomes mightily hot, ifaith: slid, my shirt sticks to my Belly already. What a steame the Rogue has left behind him! foh, this roome must be ayrd, Gentlemen; it smells horribly of Brimstoone—lets open the windowes.

Pye. Faith, maister Edmond, tis but your conceite. 220

Edm. I would you could make me beleeeue that, ifaith. Why, do you thinke I cannot smell his sauour from another? yet I take it kindly from you, because you would not put me in a feare, ifaith; a my troth, I shal loue you for this the longest day of my life. 226

Cap. Puh, tis nothing, sir: loue me when you see more.

Edm. Masse, now I remember, Ile looke whether he has singed the hangings or no.

Pye. Captaine, to entertaine a litle sport till they come, make him beleeeue youle charme him inuisible: hes apt to admire any thing, you see. Let me alone to giue force too'te.

Cap. Goe, retire to yonder end then. 235

Edm. I protest you are a rare fellowe, are you not?

Cap. O maister Edmond, you know but the least part of me yet: why, now at this instant I could but florish my wand thrice ore your head, and charme you inuisible. 241

Edm. What, you could not? make me walke inuisible, man! I should laugh at that, ifaith; troth, ile requite your kindnes and youle doo't, good Captaine coniurer. 245

Cap. Nay, I should hardly deny you such a small kindnesse, Master Edmond Plus: why, looke you, sir, tis no more but this and thus and agen, and now yar inuisible! 249

Edm. Am I, ifaith? who would thinke it?

212-13 S. D. Enter Edmond M 248-9 thus agen Ff

Cap. You see the fortune-teller yonder at farder end ath chamber: goe toward him, do what you will with him; he shall nere finde you. 254

Edm. Say you so? ile trie that, ifaith,—
[*Iustles him.*

Pie. How now? Captaine, whose that iustled me?

Cap. Iustled you? I saw no body. 258

Edm. Ha, ha, ha!—say twas a spirit.

Cap. Shall I?—may be some spirit that haunts the circle.

[*Edmond*] Puls him by the Nose.

Pye. O my nose agen! pray coniuere then, Captaine. 263

Edm. Troth, this is xelent; I may do any knauery now and neuer be seene,—and now I remember mee, Sir Godfrey my Vncle abuse me tother day, & told tales of me to my Mother—Troth, now Ime inuisible, ile hit him a sound wherri ath' eare, when he comes out ath' garden.—I may be reuengd on him now finely. 271

Enter Sir Godfrey, Widdow, Franck, Nicholas with the Chaine.

Sir God. I haue my Chaine againe, my Chaine's found againe. O sweete Captaine, O admirable Coniurer. [*Edm. strikes him.* Oh! what meane you by that, Nephew?

Edm. Nephew? I hope you do not know mee, Vncle? 277

Wid. Why did you strike your Vncle, sir?

Edm. Why, Captaine, am I not inuisible?

Capt. A good iest, George!—not now you are not, Sir.

Why, did you not see me when I did vncharme you? 281

Edm. Not I by my troth, Captaine. Then pray you pardon mee, Vncle; I thought Ide beene inuisible when I struck you.

Sir Godf. So, you would doo't? go,—y'are a foolish Boy, 285

And were I not ore-come with greater ioy, Ide make you taste correction.

Edm. Correction, push!—no, neither you nor my Mother shall thinke to whip me as you haue done. 290

Sir Godf. Captaine, my ioy is such, I know not how to thanke you: let me embrace you, hug you. O my sweete Chaine! Gladnesse 'een makes mee giddy. Rare man! twas as iust ith' Rosemarie banck, as if one should ha laide it there—oh cunning, cunning! 296

Wid. Well, seeing my fortune tels mee

256 How! Hoe Ff 261 S. D. Puls . . Nose after

263 Q 293 hug you om. Ff, etc.

I must marry, let me marry a man of witte, a man of parts. Here's a worthy Capitaine, and 'tis a fine Title truly la to bee a Capitaines Wife. A Capitaines Wife, it goes very finely; beside all the world knows that a worthy Capitaine is a fitte Companion to any Lord, then why not a sweete bed-fellow for any Lady, —He haue it so—

305

Enter Frailltie.

Frail. O Mistris, Gentlemen, there's the brauest sight comming along this way.

Wid. What braue sight?

Frail. Oh, one going to burying, & another going to hanging.

310

Wid. A ruefull sight.

Pyb. Sfoote, Capitaine, He pawne my life the Corporals coffind, and old *Skirmish* the souldier going to execution, & 'tis now full about the time of his waking; hold out a little longer, sleepeie potion, and we shall haue exlent admiration; for He take vpon me the cure of him.

(SCENE III. *The street before the Widow's house.*)

Enter the Coffin of the Corporall, the souldier bound, and lead by Officers, the Sheriffe there. (From the house, Sir Godfrey, the Widow, Idle, Pyeboard, Edmond, Fraillty, and Nicholas.)

Frail. Oh here they come, here they come!

Pyb. Now must I close secretly with the Souldier, preuent his impatience, or else all's discovered.

4

Wid. O lamentable seeing! these were those Brothers, that fought and bled before our doore.

Sir Godf. What, they were not, Sister?

Skirm. George, looke toote, He peach at Tyburne else.

10

Pyb. Mum,—Gentles all, vouchsafe mee audience, and you especially, Maister Shirriffe: Yon man is bound to execution, Because he wounded this that now lyes coffind?

Shir. True, true; he shall haue the law,—and I know the law.

16

Pyb. But vnder fauour, Maister Sheriffe, if this man had bene cured and safe agen, he should haue bene releasde then?

Shir. Why make you question of that, Sir?

Pyb. Then I release him freely, and will take vpon mee the death that he should dye, if within a litle season, I do not cure him to his proper health agen.

Shir. How Sir? recouer a dead man? That were most strange of all.

25

[*Frank comes to him.*]

Frank. Sweete Sir, I loue you deerely, and could wish my best part yours,—oh do not vndertake such an impossible venture.

Pyb. Loue you me? then for your sweet sake He doo't:

30

Let me entreate the corps to be set downe.

Shir. Bearers, set downe the Coffin.—This were wonderfull, and worthy *Stoics* Chronicle.

Pyb. I pray bestow the freedome of the ayre vpon our wholsome Arte.—Masse, his cheekes begin to receiue naturall warmth: nay, good Corporall, wake betime, or I shall haue a longer sleepe then you.—Sfoote, if he should proue dead indeed now, he were fully reuengd vpon me for making a property on him, yet I had rather run vpon the Ropes, then haue the Rope like a Tetter run vpon mee. Oh—he stirs—he stirs agen—looke, Gentlemen, he recouers, he starts, he rises.

Shir. Oh, oh, defend vs!—out, alas.

45

Pyb. Nay, pray be still; youle make him more giddy else;—he knowes no body yet.

Corp. Zounes: where am I? couerd with Snow? I maruaile.

49

Pyb. Nay, I knew hee would sweare the first thing hee did, as soone as euer he came to his life agen.

Corp. Sfoote, Hostesse, some hotte Porridge,—oh, oh, lay on a dozen of Fagots in the Moone parler, there.

55

Pyb. Lady, you must needs take a little pittie of him, yfaith, and send him in to your Kitchin fire.

Wid. Oh, with all my heart, sir. *Nicholas* and *Frailltie*, helpe to beare him in.

60

Nich. Beare him in, quatha? pray call out the Maides, I shall nere haue the heart to doo't, indeed la.

Frail. Nor I neither, I cannot abide to handle a Ghost of all men.

65

Cor. Shloud, let me see: where was I drunke last night, heh—

Wid. Oh, shall I bid you once agen take him away?

Frail. Why, we're as fearefull as you, I warrant you—oh—

71

Wid. Away, villaines; bid the Maides make him a Cawdle presently to settle his braine,—or a Posset of Sack; quickly, quickly.

[*Exeunt (Frailty and Nicholas) pushing in the corpses.*]

314 full om. *Ff.* etc. 315 waking *Ff.* etc.: walking *Q*. Scene III. etc. add. *M.* No change of scene intended by author S. D. From... Nicholas add. *M.*

33 were] is *Ff* 40 on] of *M* 48 where *Ff.* etc.: where *Q* 51, 52 euer, his om. *Ff* 74 S. D. Fraillty, etc. add. *M*

Shir. Sir, what so ere you are, I do more then admire you. 76

Wid. O, I, if you knew all, Maister Shirriffe, as you shall doe, you would say then, that here were two of the rarest men within the walls of Christendome. 80

Shir. Two of 'em? O wonderfull. Officers, I discharge you, set him free, all's in tune.

Sir Godf. I, and a banquet ready by this time, Maister Sheriffe, to which I most cheerefully enuite you, and your late prisoner there. See you this goodly chaine, sir? mun, no more words, was lost, and is found againe; come, my inestimable bullies, weele talke of your noble Acts in sparkling Charnico, and in stead of a Iester, weele ha the ghost ith white sheete sit at vpper end a'th Table. 91

Sheriff. Exlent merry, man, yfaith.

(*Exeunt all but Frances.*)

Franck Well, seeing I am enioynd to loue and marry,

My foolish vow thus I casheere to Ayre Which first begot it.—Now, loue, play thy part; The scholler reades his lecture in my heart. 96

(*Exit.*)

Actus 5.

SCEN. I. (*The street before the Widow's house.*)

Enter in hast Maister Edmund and Frayltie.

Ed. This is the marriage morning for my mother & my sister.

Frail. O me, Maister Edmund; we shall ha rare doings. 4

Ed. Nay, go, *Frayltie*, runne to the Sexton; you know my mother wilbe married at Saint Antlings. Hie thee, tis past fiae; bid them open the Church dore; my sister is almost ready.

Fra. What, al ready, Maister Edmund? 9

Ed. Nay, go, hie thee: first run to the Sexton, and runne to the Clarke, and then run to Maister *Pigman* the Parson, and then run to the Millanor, and then run home agen.

Frail. Heer's run, run, run——

Ed. But harke, *Frailty*. 15

Fra. What, more yet?

Edm. Has the maides remembered to strew the way to the Church.

Frail. Fagh, an houre ago; I helpt 'em my selfe. 20

Ed. Away, away, away, away then.

Frail. Away, away, away then.

(*Exit Frailty.*)

75 *Prefix Skir. Q* 91 at the upper *M* *S. D.*
Exeunt . . Frances M: Exit Q *S. D. Exit add. M*
S. D. The street . . house add. M 19 help *Q* 22
 then *Q*: away then *Ff, etc.*

Edm. I shall haue a simple Father inlawe, a braue Captaine able to beate all our streete: Captaine *Idle*. Now my Ladie Mother wilbe fitted for a delicate name: my Ladie *Idle*, my Ladie *Idle*, the finest name that can be for a woman; and then the Scholler, Maister *Pie-boord*, for my sister *Francis*, that wilbe Mistris *Francis Pie-boord*.—Mistris *Francis Pie-boord*! theill keepe a good table I warrant you. Now all the knights noses are put out of ioynt; they may go to a bone setters now. 33

Enter Captaine and Pie-boord.

Harke, harke! oh who comes here with two Torches before 'em? my sweete Captaine, and my fine Scholler! oh, how brauely they are shot vp in one night; they looke like fine Brittaines now, me thinkes. Heres a gallant change, ifaith: slid, they haue hir'd men and all by the clock. 40

Cap. Maister Edmund, kinde, honest, dainty Maister Edmund.

Edm. Fogh, sweete Captaine Father inlaw, a rare perfume, ifayth. 44

Pie. What, are the Brides stirring? may wee steall vpon 'em, thinkst thou, Maister Edmund?

Edm. Faw, there e'en vpon reddines, I can assure you, for they were at there Torch e'en now: by the same token I tumbled downe the staires. 51

Pie. Alas, poore Maister Edmund.

Enter musitians.

Cap. O, the musitians! I pree the, Maister Edmund, call 'em in and licquour 'em a little.

Ed. That I will, sweete Captaine father in law, and make ech of them as drunck as a common fiddeler. [*Exeunt omnes.*]

(*SCENE II. The same.*)

Enter Sir Iohn Penidub, and Moll aboute lacing of her clothes.

Pen. Whewh, Mistris Mol, Mistris Mol.

Mol. Who's there?

Pen. Tis I.

Mol. Who? Sir Iohn Penidub? O you'r an early cocke, ifayth: who would haue thought you to be so rare a stirrer? 6

Pen. Preethe, Mol, let me come vp.

Mol. No, by my faith, Sir Iohn, Ile keepe you downe, for you Knights are very dangerous if once you get aboute. 10

Pen. Ile not stay, ifaith.

Mol. Ifaith, you shall staie, for, Sir Iohn,

Scene II. etc. add. M

you must note the nature of the Climates: your Northern wench in her owne Countrie may well hold out till shee bee fifteene, but if she touch the South once, and come vp to *London*, here the Chimes go presently after twelue.

Pen. O th'art a mad wench, *Moll*, but I pree thee make hast, for the Priest is gone before. 20

Moll. Do you follow him, Ile not be long after. [Exeunt.]

(SCENE III. *A room in Sir Oliver Muckhill's house.*)

Enter Sir Oliuer Muck-hill, Sir Andrew Tipstaffe, and old Skirmish talking.

Muck. O monstrous, vn-heard of forgerie.

Tip. Knight, I neuer heard of such villany in our owne countrie in my life.

Muck. Why, 'tis impossible; dare you maintaine your words? 5

Skir. Dare wee? een to their wezen pipes. We know all their plots, they cannot squander with vs; they haue knaushly abusd vs, made onely properties on's to aduance their selues vpon our shoulders, but they shall rue their abuses. This morning they are to bee married.

Muck. Tis too true; yet if the Widdow be not too much besotted on slights and forgeries, the reuelation of their villanies will make 'em loathsome: and to that end, be it in priuate to you, I sent late last night to an honourable personage, to whom I am much indebted in kindnesse, as he is to me, and therefore presume vpon the paiment of his tongue, and that hee will lay out good words for me: and to speake truth, for such needfull occasions, I onely preserue him in bond, and some-times he may doe mee more good here in the Cittie by a free word of his mouth, then if hee had paid one halfe in hand, and tooke Doomesday for t'other. 26

Tip. In troth, Sir, without soothing bee it spoken, you haue publisht much iudgement in these few words.

Muck. For you know, what such a man vtters will be thought effectual and to waighty purpose, and therefore into his mouth weel put the approoued theame of their forgeries.

Skir. And Ile maintaine it, Knight, if yeele be true. 35

Enter a seruant.

Muck. How now, fellow?

Seru. May it please you, Sir, my Lord is newly lighted from his Coache.

Scene III. *etc. add. M* 9 on's] of us *M* 35
yeete *pr. el.*: sheele *Q*, *Ff*: you'll *Haz.*

Muc. Is my Lord come already? his honours early.

You see he loues me well: vp before seauen! 40

Trust me, I haue found him night capt at eleuen.

Ther's good hope yet; come, Ile relate all to him. [Exeunt.]

(SCENE IV. *A street; a church appearing.*)

Enter the two Bridegromes, Captaine and Scholler; after them, Sir Godfrey and Edmond, Widdow changde in apparell, mistris Francis led betweene two Knights, Sir Iohn Penny-dub and Moll: there meetes them a Noble man, Sir Oliuer Muckil, and Sir Andrew Tip-staffe.

Nob. By your leaue, Lady.

Wid. My Lord, your honour is most chastly welcome.

Nob. Madam, tho I came now from court, I come not to flatter you: vpon whom can I iustly cast this blot, but vpon your owne forehead, that know not inke from milke? such is the blind besotting in the state of an vnheaded woman thats a widdow. For it is the property of all you that are widdowes (a hand full excepted) to hate those that honestly and carefully loue you, to the maintenance of credit, state, and posterity, and strongly to doat on those, that only loue you to vndo you: who regard you least are best regarded, who hate you most are best beloued. And if there be but one man amongst tenne thousand millions of men that is accurst, disastrous, and euilly planeted, whome Fortune beates most, whome God hates most, and all Societies esteeme least, that man is suere to be a husband.—Such is the peeuish Moore that rules your bloods. An Impudent fellow best woes you, a flattering lip best wins you, or in a mirth who talks roughliest is most sweetest; nor can you distinguish truth from forgeries, mistes from Simplicity: witnes those two deceitfull monsters that you haue entertained for bride-groomes. 29

Wid. Deceitfull!

Pie. All will out.

Cap. Sfoote, who has blabd, *George*? that foolish *Nicholas*?

Nob. For what they haue besotted your easie blood withall weare nought but forgeries: the fortune telling for husbands, the con-

40 seauen *Q*: heaven *Ff* 41 at a cleuen *Q* 42
Ile] lee *Q* Scene IV. *etc. add. M* 11 handfull
Ff 23 you bloods *Q* 25 a om. *Ff*

uring for the chaine *Sir Godfrey* heard the
falshod of: al nothing but meere knauery,
deceit, and coozenage. 39

Wid. O wonderfull! indeed I wondred that
my husband with all his craft could not keepe
himselfe out of purgatory.

Sir Godf. And I more wonder that my
chaine should be gon and my Taylor had none
of it. 45

Mol. And I wondred most of all that I
should be tyed from marriage, hauing such
a mind too't. Come, *S(ir) Iohn Pennydub*,
faire wether on our side; the moone has
chainged since yester night. 50

Pie. The Sting of euery euill is with-in mee.

Nob. And that you may perceauie I faime
not with you, behould their fellow actor in
those forgeries; who, full of Spleene and enuy
at their so suddaine aduancements, reueled
all there plot in anger. 56

Pie. Base Souldier, to reueall vs.

Wid. Ist possible wee should be blinded so,
and our eys open?

Nob. Widdow, wil you now beleuee that
false, which to soone you beleueed true? 61

Wid. O, to my shame I doe.

Sir Godf. But vnder fauour, my Lord, my
chaine was truely lost and strainingly found
againie. 65

Nob. Resolue him of that, Souldier.

S(k)ir. In few words, Knight, then, thou
wert the arch-gull of all.

Sir Godf. How, Sir? 69

Skir. Nay, ile proue it: for the chayne was
but hid in the rosemary bancke all this while,
and thou gotst him out of pryson to Coniure
for it, who did it admirably fustianly; for
indeed what neede any others when he knew
where it was? 75

Sir Godf. O vilainy of vilanies! but how
came my chaine there?

Skir. Wheres *truly la*, in deed *la*, he that
will not sweare, but lie, he that will not steale,
But rob: pure *Nicholas Saint Antlings*? 80

Sir Godf. O Villaine! one of our society,
Deemd alwaies holy, pure, religious.
A Puritan a theefe, when wast euer hard?
Sooner wee'll kill a man then Steale, thou
knowst.

Out, slaue! Ile rend my lyon from thy back 85

37 heare S 43 wonder'd M 74 needed Ff, etc.
other M 76 vilanies] villains Ff

With mine owne hands.

Nich. Deare Maister, oh.

Nob. Nay, Knight, dwell in patience. And
now, widdow, being so neere the Church,
twer great pity, nay vncharity, to send you
home againe without a husband: drawe nerer
you of true worship, state and credit, that
should not stand so farre of from a widdow,
and suffer forged shapes to come betweene
you. Not that in these I blemish the true Title
of a Captaine, or blot the faire margent of
a Scholler; For I honnor worthy and deseruing
parts in the one, and cherish fruitfull Vertues
in the other. Come Lady, and you, Virgin;
bestowe your eys and your purest affections
vpon men of estimation both in Court and
Citty, that hath long woed you, and both with
there hearts and wealth sincerely loue you. 103

Sir Godf. Good Sister, doe: Sweet little
Franke, these are men of reputation; you
shalbe welcome at Court: a great credit for
a Cittizen, sweet Sister.

Nob. Come, her scilence doos consent too't.

Wid. I know not with what face— 109

Nob. Pah, pah! why, with your owne face;
they desire no other.

Wid. Pardon me, worthy Sirs; I and my
daughter haue wrongd your loues.

Muck. Tis easily pardon'd, Lady,
If you vouchsafe it now. 115

Wid. With all my soule.

Fran. And I with all my heart.

Moll. And I, Sir *Iohn*, with soule, heart,
lights and all.

Sir Ioh. They are all mine, *Moll.* 120

Nob. Now, Lady,

What honest Spirit but will applaud your
choyce,

And gladly furnish you with hand and voyce?
A happy change which makes een heauen
reioyce.

Come, enter into your Ioyes, you shall not
want 125

For fathers now; I doubt it not, beleuee me,
But that you shall haue hands inough to giue
(ye). [Exeunt omnes.

Deus dedit his quod(ue) finem.

FINIS

91 near Ff 102 bath Q: haue Ff, etc. 120
Prefix Sir Godf. Ff 125 into] in Ff 127 give ye
R: giue Q: giue me Ff 128 Deus, etc. om. Ff, etc.

A YORKSHIRE Tragedy

*Not so New as Lamentable
and true.*

*Acted by his Maiesties Players at
the Globe.*

Written by VV. Shakspeare.



AT LONDON

Printed by R. B. for Thomas Panier and are to bee sold at his
shop on Cornhill, neere to the exchange.

1608,

Q 1 = Quarto of 1608
Q 2 = „ „ 1619
F 1 = (Third) Folio Shakespeare, 1664
F 2 = (Fourth) „ 1685
R = Rowe, 1709
M = Malone, 1780
St. = Steevens, *ibid.*
Th. = Theobald, *ibid.*
Kn. = Knight, 1839-41
S = Simms, 1848
T = Tyrrell, 1851
Haz. = Hazlitt, 1852
Molt. = Moltke, 1869
Col. = Collier, 1878
pr. ed. = present editor

ALL'S ONE,

OR, ONE OF THE FOUERE PLAIES IN ONE, CALLED

A YORK-SHIRE TRAGEDY

AS IT WAS PLAID BY THE KINGS MAIESTIES PLAIIERS.

(Dramatis Personae.

Husband.
Master of a College.
Knight, a Justice of Peace.
Oliver, }
Ralph, } Serving-men.
Samuel }

Other Servants, and Officers.
Wife.
Maid-servant.
A little Boy.¹

(SCENE I. A room in Calverly Hall.)

Enter Oliuer and Ralph, two seruimgmen.

Oliu. Sirrah *Raph*, my yong Mistrisse is in such a pittifull passionate humor for the long absence of her loue— 3

Raph. Why, can you blame her? why, apples hanging longer on the tree then when they are ripe makes so many fallings; viz., Madde wenchs, because they are not gathered in time, are faine to drop of them selues, and then tis Common you know for euery man to take em vp. 10

Oliu. Mass, thou saiest true, Tis common indeede: but, sirah, is neither our young maister returned, nor our fellow Sam come from London? 14

Ralph. Neither of either, as the Puritan bawde saies. Slidd, I heare *Sam*: *Sam's* come, her's! Tarry! come, yfaith, now my nose itches for news.

Oliue. And so doe's mine elbowe.
[*Sam* calls within. Where are you there?] 20

Sam. Boy, look you walk my horse with discretion; I haue rid him simply. I warrand his skin sticks to his back with very heate: if a should catch cold & get the Cough of the Lunges I were well serued, were I not? 25

(*Enter Sam.*) *Furnisht with things from London.*

What, *Raph* and *Oliuer*.

Am(bo). Honest fellow *Sam*, welcome, yfaith! what tricks hast thou brought from London? 29

¹ Add. R. Scene I. etc. add. M. S. D. and Raphe Q 2 6 viz.] so Haz. 8 drop off M. 10 em] them Q 2, etc. 17 here tarry Q 2, Ff: here he is; tarry M. 25 S. D. Enter Sam add. M. Furnisht, etc. follows 28 Qq, Ff

Sa. You see I am hangd after the truest fashion: three hats, and two glasses, bobbing vpon em, two rebato wyers vpon my brest, a capcase by my side, a brush at my back, an Almanack in my pocket, & three ballats in my Codpeece: naie, I am the true picture of a Common seruimgman. 36

Oliuer Ile sweare thou art. Thou maist set vp when thou wilt. Ther's many a one begins with lesse, I can tel thee, that proues a rich man ere he dyes. But whats the news from London, *Sam*? 41

Ralph. I, thats well sed; whats the newes from London, Sirrah? My young mistresse keeps such a puling for hir loue.

Sam. Why, the more foole shee; I, the more ninny hammer shee. 46

Oli. Why, *Sam*, why?

Sam. Why, hees married to another Long agoe.

Ambo. Ifaith, ye Iest. 50

Sam. Why, did you not know that till now? why, hees married, beates his wife, and has two or three children by her: for you must note that any woman beares the more when she is beaten. 55

Raph. I, thats true, for shee beares the blowes.

Oliu. Sirrah *Sam*, I would not for two years wages, my yong mistres knew so much; sheed run vpon the lefte hand of her wit, and nere be her owne woman agen. 61

Sam. And I think she was blest in her Cradle, that he neuer came in her bed: why, hee has consumed al, pawnd his lands, and made his vniuersitie brother stand in waxe

61 her] here Q 1 62-3 was .. that .. came] were .. had .. come conj. Percy

for him—Thers a fine phrase for a scriuener!
pub, he owes more then his skins worth. 67

Oli. Is't possible?

Sa. Nay, Ile tell you moreouer, he calls
his wife whore as familiarly as one would cal
Mal & Dol, and his children bastards as
as naturally as can bee.—But what haue we
heere? I thought twas somewhat puld downe
my breeches: I quite forgot my two poting-
sticks. These came from London; now any
thing is good heer that comes from London.

Oli. I, farre fetcht you know. 77

Sam. But speak in your conscience, yfaith,
haue not we as good potingsticks ith Cuntry
as need to be put ith fire. The mind of a
thing is all. The mind of a thing's all, and
as thou saidst eene now, farre fetcht is the
best things for Ladies. 83

Oliu. I, and for waiting gentle women to.

Sam. But, Ralph, what, is our beer sower
this thunder?

Oli. No, no, it holds countenance yet.

Sam. Why, then, follow me; Ile teach you
the finest humor to be drunk in. I leard it
at London last week. 90

Am(bo). I faith, lets heare it, lets heare it.

Sam. The brauest humor! twold do a man
good to bee drunck in't; they call it knighting
in London, when they drink vpon their knees.

Am(bo). Faith, that's excellent. Come,
follow me: Ile giue you all the degrees ont in
order. [Exeunt.]

<SCENE II. *Another apartment in the
same.*>

Enter wife.

Wife. What will become of vs? all will
awaie.

My husband neuer ceases in expence,
Both to consume his credit and his house;
And tis set downe by heauens iust decree,
That Ryotts child must needs be beggery. 5
Are these the vertues that his youth did pro-
mise?

Dice, and voluptuous meetings, midnight
Reuels,

Taking his bed with surfetts: Ill beseeeming
The auncient honor of his howse and name!
And this not all: but that which kills me
most, 10

When he recounts his Losses and false for-
tunes,

73 somewhat *Q 1*: something *Q 2*, etc. 74, 79
poking sticks *R* 78-80 *Sam.* But speak . . . fire add.
to *Oliuer's* speech *M*, etc. 91 Faith *Q 2* 96 ont
Q 1: of it *Q 2*, etc. Scene II. etc. add. *M*.

The weaknes of his state soe much deieted,
Not as a man repentant but halfe madd,
His fortunes cannot answere his expence:
He sits and sullenly lockes vp his Armes, 15
Forgetting heauen looks downward, which
makes him

Appeare soe dreadfull that he frights my heart,
Walks heauily, as if his soule were earth:
Not penitent for those his sinnes are past,
But vext his mony cannot make them last:—
A fearefull melancholie, vngodly sorrow. 21
Oh yonder he comes, now in despite of ills
Ile speake to him, and I will heare him speake,
And do my best to driue it from his heart.

Enter Husband.

Hus. Poxe oth Last throw! it made 25
Fiue hundred Angels vanish from my sight.
Ime damnd, Ime damnd: the Angels haue
forsook me.

Nay, tis certainly true: for he that has
No coyne is damnd in this world: hee's gon,
hee's gon.

Wi. Deere husband. 30

Hus. Oh! most punishment of all, I haue
a wife.

Wi. I doe intreat you as you loue your
soule,
Tell me the cause of this your discontent.

Hus. A vengeance strip thee naked! thou
art cause,

Effect, quality, property, thou, thou, thou! 35
[Exit.]

Wife. Bad, turnd to worse! both beggery
of the soule,

As of the bodie. And so much vnlike
Him selfe at first, as if some vexed spirit
Had got his form vpon him.—

[Enter Husband againe.]

He comes agen. 40

He saies I am the cause; I neuer yet
Spoke lesse then wordes of duty, and of loue.

Hus. If mariage be honourable, then
Cuckolds are honourable, for they cannot be
made without marriage. Foole! what meant
I to marry to get beggars? now must my
eldest sonne be a knaue or nothing; he can-
not liue vppot'h foole, for he wil haue no land
to maintaine him: that morgage sits like a
snaffle vpon mine inheritance, and makes me
chaw vpon Iron. My second sonne must be
a promooter, and my third a theefe, or an
vnderputter, a slaue pander. 53

14 Placed after 9 *Haz.* 25-7 End angels, damn'd,
Nay it is *M* 28 Ends coyne *Qq*, etc.: corr. *pr. ed.*
36-40 Six lines *Qq*, ending worse, bodie, first, spirit,
him, agen 37 As] And *M*

Oh beggery, beggery, to what base vses dost thou put a man! I think the Deuill scornes to be a bawde. He beares himselfe more proudly, has more care on's credit. Base, slaush, abiect, filthie pouertie! 58

Wi. Good sir, by all our vowes I doe beseech you,

Show me the true cause of your discontent.

Hus. Mony, mony, mony, and thou must supply me. 61

Wi. Alas, I am the lest cause of your discontent,

Yet what is mine, either in rings or Iewels, Vse to your own desire, but I beseech you, As y'are a gentleman by many bloods, Though I my selfe be out of your respect, 66
Thinke on the state of these three louely boies

You haue bin father to.

Hu. Puh! Bastards, bastards, bastards; begot in tricks, begot in tricks. 70

Wi. Heauen knowes how those words wrong me, but I maie

Endure these griefes among a thousand more. Oh, call to mind your lands already morgadge, Your selfe woound into debts, your hopefull brother

At the vniuersitie in bonds for you, 75
Like to be ceasd vpon; And—

Hu. Ha done, thou harlot, Whome, though for fashion sake I married, I neuer could abide; thinkst thou thy wordes Shall kill my pleasures? Fal of to thy friends, Thou and thy bastards begg: I will not bate A whit in humor! midnight, still I loue you, And reuel in your Company. Curbd in, Shall it be said in all societies, 84
That I broke custome, that I flagd in monie? No, those thy iewels I will play as freely As when thy state was fullest.

Wi. Be it so.

H. Nay I protest, and take that for an earnest, [spurns her

I will for euer hould thee in contempt, 90
And neuer touch the sheets that couer thee, But be diuorst in bed till thou consent, Thy dowry shall be sold to giue new life Vnto those pleasures which I most affect. 94

Wi. Sir, doe but turne a gentle eye on me, And what the law shall giue me leaue to do You shall command.

Hu. Look it be done: sha! I want dust & like a slaue

57 on's Q 1: on his Q 2, Ff: of his M 65 you are Q 2, etc. 71 I maie Q 1: Till Q 2, Ff 73 morgadge Qq: mortgag'd Ff, etc. 98, 99 End dust, pockets M

Weare nothing in my pockets but my hands To fil them vp with nailles? 100

[holding his hands in his pockets.

Oh much against my blood! Let it be done.

I was neuer made to be a looker on,

A bawde to dice; Ile shake the drabbs my selfe

And made em yeeld. I saie, look it be done.

Wi. I take my leaue: it shall. [Exit.

Hu. Speedily, speedily. I hate the very howre I chose a wife: a trouble, trouble! three children like three euils hang vpon me. Fie, fie, fie, strumpet & bastards, strumpet and bastards! 110

Enter three Gentlemen heering him.

1 *Gen.* Still doe those loathsome thoughts Iare on your tongue?

Your selfe to staine the honour of your wife, Nobly discended! Those whom men call mad

Endanger others; but hee's more then mad That wounds himselfe, whose owne wordes do proclaym 115

Scandalls vnjust, to soile his better name:

It is not fit; I pray, forsake it.

2 *Gen.* Good sir, let modestie reprove you.

3 *Gen.* Let honest kindnes sway so much with you.

Hu. God den, I thanke you, sir, how do you? adeiue! Ime glad to see you. Farewel Instructions, Admonitions. [Exeunt 3 *Gent.*

Enter a seruant.

Hu. How now, sirra; what wud you? 123

Ser. Only to certifie you, sir, that my mistris was met by the way, by them who were sent for her vp to London by her honorable vnkle, your worshipps late gardian. 127

Hus. So, sir, then she is gon and so may you be: But let her looke that the thing be done she wots of: or hel wil stand more pleasant then her house at home. 131

[Exit seruant.]

Enter a Gentleman.

Gen. Well or ill met, I care not.

Hus. No, nor I.

Gen. I am come with confidence to chide you.

Hu. Who? me? 135

Chide me? Doo't finely then: let it not moue me,

For if thou chidst me angry, I shall strike.

99 my bare hands M 106-10 Verse M 108 vpon] on M 128-31 Verse M 129 that om. F 2, etc. S. D. Exit seruant add. Q 2 135-7 Prose Qq: corr. M

Gen. Strike thine owne follies, for it is they deserue
 To be wel beaten. We are now in priuate:
 Ther's none but thou and I. Thou'rt fond & peeuish, 140
 An vncleane ryoter: thy landes and Credit
 Lie now both sick of a consumption.
 I am sorry for thee: that man spends with shame
 That with his ritches does consume his name:
 And such art thou. 145
Hus. Peace.
Gent. No, thou shalt heare me further:
 Thy fathers and forefathers worthy honors,
 Which were our country monuments, our grace,
 Follies in thee begin now to deface. 150
 The spring time of thy youth did fairely promise
 Such a most fruitfull summer to thy friends
 It scarce can enter into mens beliefes,
 Such dearth should hang on thee. Wee that see it,
 Are sorry to beleuee it: in thy change, 155
 This voice into all places will be hurld:
 Thou and the deuill has deceaued the world.
Hus. Ile not indure thee.
Gent. But of all the worst:
 Thy vertuous wife, right honourably allied,
 Thou hast proclaimed a strumpet. 161
Hus. Nay, then, I know thee.
 Thou art her champion, thou, her priuat friend,
 The partie you wot on.
Gent. Oh ignoble thought.
 I am past my patient bloode: shall I stand idle 166
 And see my reputation toucht to death?
Hus. Ta's galde you, this, has it?
Gent. No, monster, I will proue
 My thoughts did only tend to vertuous loue.
(Hus.) Loue of her vertues? there it goes.
Gent. Base spirit, 172
 To laie thy hate vpon the fruitfull Honor
 Of thine own bed.
[They fight and the Husbands hurt.]
Hu. Oh!
Ge. Woulst thou yeeld it yet? 176
Hu. Sir, Sir, I haue not done with you.
Gent. I hope nor nere shall doe.
[Fight agen.]
Hu. Haue you got tricks? are you in cunning with me?
Gent. No, plaine and right. 180

He needs no cunning that for truth doth fight.
[Husband falls downe.]
Hu. Hard fortune, am I leueld with the ground?
Gent. Now, sir, you lie at mercy.
Hu. I, you slaue.
Ge. Alas, that hate should bring vs to our graue. 185
 You see my sword's not thirsty for your life,
 I am sorer for your woonde then your selfe.
 Y'are of a vertuous house, show vertuous deeds;
 Tis not your honour, tis your folly bleedes;
 Much good has bin expected in your life, 190
 Cancell not all mens hopes: you haue a wife
 Kind and obedient: heape not wrongfull shame
 On her (and) your posterity, (nor blame
 Your overthrow;) let only sin be sore,
 And by this fall, rise neuer to fall more. 195
 And so I leaue you. *[Exit.]*
Hu. Has the dogg left me, then,
 After his tooth hath left me? oh, my hart
 Would faine leape after him. Reuenge, I saye,
 Ime mad to be reueng'd. My strumpet wife,
 It is thy quarrel that rips thus my flesh, 201
 And makes my brest spit blood, but thou shalt bleed.
 Vanquisht? got downe? vnable eene to speak?
 Surely tis want of mony makes men weake.
 I, twas that orethrew me; Id'e nere bin downe els. *[Exit.]*

(SCENE III. *The same.*)

Enter wife in a riding suite with a seruingman.

Seru. Faith, mistris, If it might not bee presumption
 In me to tell you so, for his excuse
 You had smal reason, knowing his abuse.
Wi. I grant I had; but, alas,
 Whie should our faults at home be spread abroad? 5
 Tis grieve enough within dores. At first sight
 Myne Vncle could run ore his prodigall life
 As perfectly, as if his serious eye
 Had nombred all his follies:
 Knew of his morgadg'd lands, his friends in bonds, 10

138 Ends they *Qq*: corr. *M* follies *Q 2*, etc.: follie *Q 1* 144 does *Q 1*: doth *Q 2*, etc. 149 county's *Haz.* 154 on] upon *M* 169 will om. *Q 2*, *Ff* 171 Prefix om. *Q 1* 173 Ends fruitfull *Qq*

192-3 *The compositors appear to have corrupted two lines into one and add. Q 2* 193-4 nor.. overthrow *conj. pr. ed.* 198 left] gor'd *conj. St.* Scene III. Another room in the same *M* 1 might *Q 1*: may *Q 2*, *Ff*

Himselfe withered with debts: And in that minute
Had I added his vsage and vnkindnes,
Twould haue confounded euery thought of good:

Where now, fathering his ryots on his youth,
Which time and tame experience will shake off,

Gessing his kindnes to me (as I smoothd him
With all the skill I had) though his deserts
Are in forme vglir then an vnshapte Bear,
Hee's reddy to prefer him to some office
And place at Court, A good and sure reliefe
To al his stooping fortunes: twil be a meanes,

I hope,
To make new league between vs, and redeeme
His vertues with his landes.

Ser. I should think so, mistris. If he should
not now be kinde to you and loue you, and
cherish you vp, I should thinke the deuill
himselfe kept open house in him.

Wi. I doubt not but he will now: prethe,
leaue me; I think I heare him comming.

Ser. I am gone. *[Exit.]*

Wife. By this good meanes I shal pre-
serue my landes,

And free my husband out of vserers hands:
Now ther is no neede of sale, my Vncle's kind,
I hope, if ought, this will content his minde.—
Here comes my husband. *[Enter Husband.]*

Hu. Now, are you come? wher's the mony?
lets see the mony Is the rubbish sold, those
wiseakers your lands? why, when? the mony!
where ist? powr't down, down with it, downe
with it: I say powr't oth ground! lets see't,
lets see't.

Wi. Good sir, keep but in patience and I
hope

My words shall like you well: I bring you
better

Comfort then the sale of my Dowrie.

Hu. Hah, whats that?

Wi. Pray, do not fright me, sir, but vouch-
safe me hearing: my Vncle, glad of your kind-
nes to mee & milde vsage—for soe I made it to
him—has in pittie of your declining fortunes,
providid a place for you at Court of worth &
credit, which so much ouerjoyd me—

Hu. Out on thee, filth! ouer and ouer-
joyd, *[spurns her]* when I me in torments?
Thou pollitick whore, subtilter then nine
Deuils, was this thy iourney to Nuncke, to set
downe the historie of me, of my state and

fortunes? Shall I that Dedicated my selfe to
pleasure, be nowe confind in seruice to crouch
and stand like an old man ith hams, my hat
off? I that neuer could abide to vncover my
head ith Church? base slut! this fruite beares
thy complaints.

Wife. Oh, heauen knowes
That my complaints were praises, and best
wordes

Of you and your estate: onely my friends
Knew of our morgagde Landes, and were
possest

Of euery accident before I came.
If thou suspect it but a plot in me

To keepe my dowrie, or for mine owne good
Or my poore childrens: (though it sutes a
mother

To show a naturall care in their reliefs)
Yet ile forget my selfe to calme your blood:
Consume it, as your pleasure counsels you,
And all I wishe eene Clemency affoord:

Giue mee but comely looks and modest wordes.

Hu. Money, whore, money, or Ile—
[Draws his dagger.]

Enters a seruant very hastily.

What the deuel? how now? thy hasty news?
[to his man.]

Se. Maie it please you, sir—
[Seruant in a feare.]

Hu. What? maie I not looke vpon my
dagger? Speake villaine, or I will execute the
pointe on thee: quick, short.

Ser. Why, sir, a gentleman from the
Vniuersity staies below to speake with you.

Hu. From the Vniuersity? so! Vniuersity—
That long word runs through mee. *[Exit.]*

Wi. Was euer wife so wretchedlie beset?
[Wif. alone.]

Had not this newes stept in between, the
point

Had offered violence vnto my brest.
That which some women call greate misery
Would show but little heere: would scarce be
seene

Amongst my miseries. I maie Compare
For wretched fortunes with all wiuies that are.
Nothing will please him, vntill all be nothing.

He calls it slavery to be preferd,
A place of credit a base seruitude.

What shall become of me, and my poore
children,

Two here, and one at nurse, my prettie
beggars?

75 comely Q 1: pleasant Q 2, etc. 76 S. D. add.
Q 2 85 S. D. Exit Q 2, etc.: Exeunt Q 1 88
vnto Q 2, Ef: to Q 1 91 Among Q 2, etc.

I see how ruine with a palsie hand
Begins to shake the aunicient seat to dust:
The heauy weight of sorrow drawes my liddes
Ouer my dankishe eies: I can scarce see: 101
Thus grieve will laste; it wakes and sleeps with
mee. (Exit.)

(SCENE IV. *Another apartment in the same.*)

Enter the Husband with the master of the Colledge.

Hu. Please you please neer, sir, y'are exceeding welcome.

Ma. Thats my doubt; I fear, I come not to be welcome.

Hus. Yes, howsoever. 5

Ma. Tis not my fashion, Sir, to dwell in long circumstance, but to be plain, and effectual; therefore, to the purpose. The cause of my setting forth was pittious and lamentable: that hopefull young gentleman, your brother, whose vertues we all loue deerlie, through your default and vnnatural negligence, lies in bond executed for your debt, a prisoner, all his studies amazed, his hope strook dead, and the pride of his youth muffed in theis dark cloudes of oppression.

Hus. Hum, vm, vm. 17

Mr. Oh, you haue kild the towardest hope of all our vniue(r)sitie: wherefore, without repentance and amends, expect pondorus and suddain Iudgements to fall grieuously vpon you. Your brother, a man who profited in his diuine Employments, mighte haue made ten thousand soules fit for heauen, now by your carelesse courses caste in prison, which you must answer for, and assure your spirit it wil come home at length. 27

Hu. Oh god! oh!

Mr. Wise men think ill of you, others speake ill of you, no man loues you, nay, euen those whose honesty condemnes, condemne you: and take this from the vertuous affection I beare your brother; neuer looke for prosperous hower, good thought, quiet sleepes, contented walkes, nor any thing that makes man perfect til you redeem him. What is your answer? how will you bestow him? vpon desperate miserie, or better hopes? I suffer, till I heare your answer. 39

Hu. Sir, you haue much wrought with mee.

I feele you in my soule, you are your artes master. I neuer had sence til now; your sillables haue cleft me. Both for your words and pains I thank you: I cannot but acknowledge grieuous wronges done to my brother, mighty, mighty, mighty wronges.—Within there! 47

Enter a seruingman.

Hu. Sir, Fil me a bowle of wine. Alas, poore brother, Brus'd with an execution for my sake.

[Exit seruant for wine.]

Mr. A bruse indeed makes many a mortall sore 50
Till the graue cure em.

Enter with wine.

Hu. Sir, I begin to you, y'au'e chid your welcome.

Mr. I could haue wisht it better for your sake.

I pledge you, sir, to the kind man in prison.

Hu. Let it be soe. Now, Sir, if you so please [Drink both.]

To spend but a few minutes in a walke 56
About my grounds below, my man heere shall Attend you.

I doubt not but by that time to be furnisht Of a sufficient answer, and therein 60
My brother fully satisfied.

Mr. Good sir, in that the Angells would be pleas'd,

And the worlds murmures calmd, and I should saye 63

I set forth then vpon a lucky daie. [Exit.]

Hu. Oh thou confused man! thy pleasant sins haue vndone thee, thy damnation has beggerd thee! That heauen should say we must not sin, and yet made women! giues our senses waie to finde pleasure, which being found confounds vs. Why shold we know those things so much misuse vs?—oh, would vertue had been forbidden! wee should then haue prooued all vertuous, for tis our bloude to loue what were forbidden. Had not drunkennes byn forbidden, what man wold haue been foole to a beast, and Zany to a swine, to show tricks in the mire? what is there in three dice to make a man draw thrice three thousand acres into the compasse of a round little table, & with the gentlemen

98 palsied M 99 the] this conj. Percy 102
Thus] This conj. M Exit add. M Scene IV. etc.
add. M 17 Umph, umph, umph! M 23 and
might Q 2, etc. 24 now] is now M 34 thoughts
F 2, etc. sleep F 2, etc.

46 mighty, mighty, mighty, mighty, Ff, etc. S. D.
sermiugman Q 1 48 Sir (rom.) Hu. (ital.) Fil (rom.)
Q 1: Sir om. Q 2, etc. 50 Ends mortall Q 1: corr.
Q 2 57-61 Prose all add. 68 give M 74 were
Q 1: we are Q 2, etc. 80 little round Q 2, etc.

palsy in the hand shake out his posteritie
thieues or beggars? Tis donel I ha dont,
yfaith: terrible, horrible misery.—How well
was I left! very well, very wel. My Lands
shewed like a full moone about mee, but
nowe the moon's ith last quarter, wayning,
waining: And I am mad to think that moone
was mine; Mine and my fathers, and my
forefathers—generations, generations: downe
goes the howse of vs, down, downe it sincks.
Now is the name a beggar, begs in me! that
name, which hundreds of yeeres has made
this shiere famous, in me, and my posterity,
runs out. 94

In my seede fue are made miserable
besides my selfe: my ryot is now my brothers
iaylor, my wiues sighing, my three boyes
penurie, and mine own confusion.

[Tears his haire.

Why sit my haire vpon my cursed head?
Will not this poysen scatter them? oh my
brother's 100

In execution among deuells that
Stretch him & make him giue. And I in
want,

Not able for to lyue, nor to redeeme him.
Divines and dying men may talke of hell,
But in my heart her seuerall torments dwell.
Slauery and mysery! Who in this case 106
Would not take vp mony vpon his soule,
Pawn his saluation, liue at interest?
I, that did euer in abundance dwell, 109
For me to want, exceeds the throwes of hel.

*Enters his little sonne with a top and
a scourge.*

Son. What, aile you father? are you not
well? I cannot scourge my top as long as you
stand so: you take vp all the roome with your
wide legs. Puh, you cannot make mee
afeard with this; I feare no vizards, nor bug-
beares. 116

Husb. *takes vp the childe by the skirts of his
long coate in one hand and drawes his
dagger with th' other.*

Hu. Vp, sir, for heer thou hast no in-
heritance left.

Sonne. Oh, what will you do, father? I am
your white boie. 120

Hu. Thou shalt be my red boie: take that.
[strikes him.

Son. Oh, you hurt me, father.

Hu. My eldest beggar! thou shalt not liue

101-2 Lines end make, lyue Q 1: stretch him, want
Q 2, Ff 103 for to lyue] to relieve S 106-7
End mysery, vpon his Q 1: corr. Q 2 111 What aile
Qq, etc. 115 afraid Q 2, etc. 123-7 Verse M, dic.
after beggar, bread, follow, brother

to aske an vsurer bread, to crie at a great
mans gate, or followe, good your honour,
by a Couch; no, nor your brother; tis charity
to braine you. 127

Son. How shall I learne now my heads
broke?

Hu. Bleed, bleed rather then beg, beg!

[stabs him.

Be not thy names disgrace: 131

Spurne thou thy fortunes first if they be base:

Come view thy second brother.—Fates,

My childrens bloud

Shall spin into your faces, you shall see

How Confidently we scorne beggery! 136

[Exit with his Sonne.

(SCENE V. *A bed-room in the same.*)

*Enter a maide with a child in her armes, the
mother by her a sleepe.*

M(aide). Sleep, sweet babe; sorrow makes
thy mother sleep:

It boades small good when heauines falls so
deepe.

Hush, prettie boy, thy hopes might haue been
better.

Tis lost at Dice what ancient honour won:

Hard when the father plaies awaie the Sonnel!

No thing but misery serues in this house. 6
Ruine and desolation, oh!

Enter husband with the boie bleeding.

Hu. Whore, giue me that boy.

[Striues with her for the child.

M(aide). Oh help, help! out alas, murder
murder!

Hus. Are you gossiping, prating, sturdy
queane? 10

Ile breake your clamor with your neck: down
staires!

Tumble, tumble, headlong! [Throws her down.]
So!

The surest waie to charme a womans tongue
Is break hir neck: a polittician did it.

Son. Mother, mother; I am kild, mother.

W(ife) wakes. Ha, whose that cride? oh
me, my children! 16

Both, both, both; bloody, bloody.

[catches vp the yongest.

Hu. Strumpet, let go the boy, let go the
beggar.

Wi. Oh my sweet husband!

20

126 coach Q 2, etc. 130 Ends bleed M beg once M
133 brother's M 133-5 Dic. after fates, faccs, see Qq
133-4 One line M Scene V. add. M A. same add.
pr. ed. 6 serues] survives con]. S 10 you prating
M Ends Ile Q 1 11 Ends neck Q 2, Ff 12 Ends
headlong Qq S. D. W. wakes after 16 Q 1

Hus. Filth, harlot.
 Wi. Oh what will you doe, deare husband?
 Hus. Giue me the bastard.
 Wi. Your owne sweet boy!
 Hu. There are too many beggars. 25
 Wi. Good my hus-band—
 Hu. Doest thou preuent me still?
 Wi. Oh god!
 Hus. Haue at his hart! 29
 [*Stabs at the child in hir armes.*]
 Wi. Oh my deare boy! [*gets it from hir.*]
 Hu. Brat, thou shalt not lue to shame thy
 howsel
 Wi. Oh heauen!
 [*shee's hurt and sinks downe.*]
 Hus. And perish! now begon:
 Thers whores enow, and want wold make
 thee one. 35

Enter a lusty seruant.

Ser. Oh Sir, what deeds are these?
 Hus. Base slaue, my vassail:
 Comst thou between my fury to question me?
 Ser. Were you the Deuil, I would hold
 you, sir. 40
 Hu. Hould me? presumption! Ile vndoe
 thee for't.
 Ser. Sbloud, you haue vndone vs all, sir.
 Hu. Tug at thy master!
 Ser. Tug at a Monster. 45
 Hus. Haue I no power? shall my slaue
 fetter me?
 Ser. Nay, then, the Deuil wrastles, I am
 thowne.
 Hu. Oh, villane, now Ile tug thee, [*ouer-*
comes him] now Ile teare thee; 51
 Set quick spurs to my vassaile, bruize him,
 trample him.
 So! I think thou wilt not folow me in hast.
 My horse stands reddy saddled. Away, away;
 Now to my brat at nurse, my sucking begger.
 Fates, Ile not leaue you one to trample on. 56

(SCENE VI. *Court before the house.*)

The Master meets him.

Ma. How ist with you, sir? me thinks you
 looke
 Of a distracted colour.
 Hu. Who? I, sir? tis but your fancie.
 Please you walke in, Sir, and Ile soone resolu
 you:
 I want one small parte to make vp the som, 5

35 enough *M* 52-3 *Prose Qq* 56 trample one
Qq Scene VI. *etc. add. M* S. D. Enter Husband;
 to him the Master of the College *M* 1-2 *Prose Qq*,
Ff: dir. after sir *M*

And then my brother shall rest satisfied.
 Mr. I shall be glad to see it: sir, Ile attend
 you. [*Exeu(nf).*]

(SCENE VII. *The same as Scene V.*)

Ser. Oh I am scarce able to heaue vp my
 selfe:
 Ha's so bruizd me with his diuelish waight,
 And torne my flesh with his bloud-hasty spurre.
 A man before of easie constitution
 Till now hells power supplied, to his soules
 wrong. 5
 Oh, how damnation can make weake men
 strong.

Enter Master, and two seruants.

Ser. Oh, the most pitteous deed, sir, since
 you came.
 Mr. A deadly greeting! has he somde vp
 theis
 To satisfie his brother? heer's an other: 9
 And by the bleeding infants, the dead mother.
 Wi. Oh, oh.
 Mr. Surgeons, Surgeons! she recouers life.
 One of his men al faint and bloudied!
 I Seru. Follow, our murderous master has
 took horse 14
 To kill his child at nurse: oh, follow quickly.
 Mr. I am the readiest, it shal be my charge
 To raise the towne vpon him.

[*Exit Mr. and seruants.*]

I Ser. Good sir, do follow him.
 Wi. Oh my children.
 I Ser. How is it with my most afflicted
 Mistris? 20
 Wi. Why do I now recouer? why half liue?
 To see my children bleede before mine eies?
 A sight able to kill a mothers brest
 Without an executioner! what, art thou
 Mangled too? 25
 I Ser. I, thinking to preuent what his
 quicke mischiefes
 Had so soone acted, came and rusht vpon him.
 We struggled, but a fowler strength then his
 Ore threw me with his armes; then did he
 bruize me
 And rent my flesh, and robd me of my haire,
 Like a man mad in execution; 31
 Made me vnfit to rise and follow him.
 Wi. What is it has beguild him of all grace
 And stole awaie humanity from his brest?
 To slaie his children, purpose to kill his wife,
 And spoile his saruants. 36

Scene VII. *add. M* The same, *etc. pr. ed.* 5
 Hell *M* 8 bath *Q 2, etc.* 23 Ends without *M*
 24-5 One line *Qq* 26-7 *Prose Qq* 35 purpose *M*:
 purpos'd *Qq, Ff*

Enters two seruants.

Ambo Sir, please you leaue this most
accursed place,
A surgeon waites within.

Wi. Willing to leaue it!
Tis guiltie of sweete blood, innocent blood: 40
Murder has tooke this chamber with ful hands,
And wil nere out as long as the house stands.

[*Exeunt.*

(SCENE VIII. *A high road.*)

*Enter Husband as being thrown off his horse,
And falls.*

Hu. Oh stumbling Iade, the spauin ouer-
take thee,
The fiftie diseases stop thee!
Oh, I am sorely bruise; plague founder thee:
Thou runst at ease and pleasure. Hart of
chancel!

To Throw me now within a flight oth Towne,
In such plaine euen ground, snot, a man 6
May dice vp on't, and throw awaie the
Medowes.
Filthy beast.

Crie within. Follow, follow, follow.

Hus. Ha! I hear sounds of men, like hew
and crie: 10

Vp, vp, and struggle to thy horse, make on;
Dispatch that little begger and all's done.

Kni. Heere, this waie, this waye!

Hus. At my backe? oh,
What fate haue I? my limbes deny mee go, 15
My will is bated: beggery claimes a parte.
Oh, could I here reach to the infants heart.

*Enter M. of the Colledge, 3. Gentlemen, and
others with Holberds.*

[*Finde him.*

All. Heere, heere: yonder, yonder.

Mr. Vnnaturall, flintie, more then bar-
barous:

The Scithians or the marble hearted fates 20
Could not haue acted more remorselesse deeds
In their relentlessse natures, then these of
thine:

Was this the answear I long waited on,
The satisfaction for thy prisoned brother?

Hus. Why, he can haue no more on's then
our skins, 25
And some of em want but fleaing.

S. D. Enter a Servant *M* 37 *Ambo* sir (*ital.*) *Q 1*:
Ambo Q 2: Both *Ff*: Serv. *M* you *Qq*, *Ff*: you to *M*
Scene VIII. *etc. add. M* 4 hart, of *Q 1* 13 *Kni.*
Q 1: Cry Within *Q 2*, *etc.* Here, here *M* 16
bated] barred *conj. St.* 20 or the *conj. St.*: in their
Qq, *Ff*: even the *M* fates] feats *conj. Percy* 25
Why om. *Q 2*. *Ff* on's *Q 1*: of vs *Q 2*, *etc.*

1. *Gen.* Great sinnes haue made him im-
pudent.

Mr. H'as shed so much blood that he
cannot blush.

2. *Ge.* Away with him, bear him a long to
the Iustices;

A gentleman of woorship dwels at hand; 30
There shall his deeds be blazd.

Hus. Why, all the better.

My glory tis to haue my action knowne:

I grieve for nothing, but I mist of one. 34

Mr. Ther's little of a father in that griefe:
Beare him away. [*Exeunt.*

(SCENE IX. *A room in the house of a Magis-
trate.*)

*Enters a knight with two or three Gentle-
men.*

Kni. Endangered so his wife? murdered
his children?

1 *Gen.* So the Cry comes.

Kni. I am sorry I ere knew him,
That euer he took life and naturall being 5
From such an honoured stock, and fair
discent;

Til this black minut without staine or blemish.

1 *Gent.* Here come the men.

*Enter the master of the colledge and the rest,
with the prisoner.*

Kni. The serpent of his house! Ime sorry
For this time that I am in place of iustice. 10

Mr. Please you, Sir.

Kni. Doe not repeate it twice I know too
muche,

Would it had nere byn thought on:
Sir, I bleede for you.

1 *Gent.* Your fathers sorrows are alieue in
me: 15

What made you shew such monstrous cruelty?

Hu. In a worde, Sir, I haue consumd all,
plaid awaie long acre, and I thought it the
charitablist deed I could doe to cussen beggery
and knock my house oth head. 20

Kni. Oh, in a cooler blood you will repent
it.

Hus. I repent now, that ones left vnkild,
My brat at nurse. Oh, I would ful fain haue
weand him.

Kni. Well, I doe not think but in to
morrowes iudgement

The terror will sit closer to your soule, 25

29 a long om. *Q 2*, *etc.* Scene IX. *etc. add. M*
3 *Prefix* 1. *Gent.* *Q 2*, *etc.*: 4 *Gen.* *Q 1* comes *Q 1*:
goes *Q 2*, *etc.* 8, 15 *Prefix* 4 *Gent.* *Q 1* 9, 10
Prose Qq: corr. *M* 17 20 *Verse Qq*, *Ff*

When the dread thought of death remembers
you;

To further which, take this sad voice from me:
Neuer was act plaid more vnnaturally.

Hus. I thank you, Sir.

Kni. Goe, leade him to the Iayle: 30

Where iustice claimes all, there must pittie
faile.

Hus. Come, come, awaie with me.

[*Exit prisoner.*]

Mr. Sir, you deserue the worship of your
place.

Would all did so: in you the law is grace.

Kni. It is my wish it should be so.—

Ruinous man, 35

The desolation of his howse, the blot

Vpon his predecessors honord name!

That man is neerest shame that is past shame.

[*Exit.*]

(SCENE X. *Before Calverly Hall.*)

*Enter Husband with the officers, The Maister
and gentlemen, as going by his house.*

Hu. I am right against my howse, seat of
my Ancestors: I heare my wif's alieue; but
much endangered. Let me intreat to speak
with her, before the prison gripe me.

Enter his wife, brought in a chaire.

Gent. See heer she comes of her selfe. 5

Wi. Oh my sweete Hus-band, my deere
distressed husband,

Now in the hands of vnrelenting lawes!

My greatest sorrow, my extremest bleeding,
Now my soule bleeds. 9

Hu. How now? kind to me? did I not
wound thee, left thee for dead?

Wife. Tut, farre greater wounds did my
brest feele:

Vnkindnes strikes a deeper wound then steele;
You haue been still vnkinde to mee.

Hus. Faith, and so I thinke I haue: 15

I did my murders roughly, out of hand,
Desperate and suddaine, but thou hast deuiz'd
A fine way now to kill me, thou hast giuen
mine eies

Seauen woonds a peece; now glides the deuill
from mee, 19

Departes at euery ioynt, heaues vp my nailes.

Oh catch him new torments, that were near
inuented,

Binde him one thousand more, you blessed
Angells,

In that pit bottomlesse; let him not rise

To make men act vnnaturall tragedies,

To spred into a father, and in furie, 25

Make him his childrens executioners:

Murder his wife, his seruants, and who not?

For that man's darke, where heauen is quite
forgot.

Wi. Oh my repentant husband.

Hus. My deere soull, whom I too much
haue wrongd, 30

For death I die, and for this haue I longd.

Wi. Thou sholdst not (be assurde) for
these faults die,

If the law cold forgiue as soone as I.

Hus. What sight is yonder?

[*Children laid out.*]

Wi. Oh, our two bleeding boyes 35

Laid forth vpon the thresholde.

Hu. Heer's weight enough to make a
heart-string crack.

Oh, were it lawfull that your prettie soules
Might looke from heauen into your fathers

eyes, 39

Then should you see the penitent glasses melt,
And both your murders shoote vpon my

cheekes;

But you are playing in the Angells lappes,

And will not looke on me,

Who void of grace, kild you in beggery.

Oh that I might my wishes now attaine, 45

I should then wish you liuing were againe,

Though I did begge with you, which thing
I feard:

Oh, twas the enemy my eyes so bleard.

Oh, would you could pray heauen me to
forgiue,

That will vnto my end repentant liue. 50

Wi. It makes me eene forget all other
sorrowes

And liue aparte with this.

[*Officer.*] Come will you goe?

Hus. Ile kisse the bloud I spilt and then I goe:
My soull is bloudied, well may my lippes be so.

Farewell, deere wife, now thou and I must
parte, 56

I of thy wrongs repent me with my harte.

Wi. Oh staye, thou shalt not goe.

Hus. That's but in vaine, you see it must
be so.

Farewell, ye bloudie ashes of my boyes! 60

My punishments are their eternall ioyes.

Let euery father looke into my deedes,

And then their heirs may prosper, while mine
bleeds.

26 executioners *Qq*, *Ff*: executioner *M*, etc. 30

Scene X. etc. add. *M* 1-4 Verse *M*, div. after ances-
tors, endanger'd, before 6-7 Prose *Qq*, *Ff* 21 new
om. *M*, etc.

O my *M* 35 Ends vpon *Q* 1: corr. *Q* 2 43 Ends
grace *M* 52 live apart *St.*: leaue parte *Qq*, *Ff*

53 Prefix Officer add. *Q* 2

Wi. More wretched am I now in this
distresse,

[*Exeunt Husband with holberds.*]

Then former sorrows made me. 65

Mr. Oh kinde wife,

Be comforted. One ioy is yet vnmurdered:

You haue a boy at nusse; your ioy's in him.

Wi. Dearer then all is my poore husbands
life:

Heauen giue my body strength, which yet is
faint 70

With much expence of bloud, and I will kneele,

66 *Ends* comforted *Qq, Ff* 70 is yet *Ff, cl*

Sue for his life, nomber vp all my friends,
Toplead for pardon (for) my deare husbands life.

Mr. Was it in man to woond so kinde a
creature?

Ile euer praise a woman for thy sake. 75

I must returne with griefe; my answer's set:

I shall bring newes weies heauier then the
debt.—

Two brothers: one in bond lies ouerthrowne,

This on a deadlier execution.

FINIS.

73 for *add. Q 2*



THE
MERRY DEVILL
OF
-EDMONTON.

*As it hath beene sundry times Acted,
by his Maiesties Seruants, at the
Globe, on the banke-side.*



L O N D O N

Printed by *Henry Ballard* for *Arthur Iohnson*, dwelling
at the signe of the white-horse in *Paules Church*
yard, ouer against the great North
doore of *Paules*. 1608.

<i>Q</i> 1	=	Quarto of 1608
<i>Q</i> 2	=	„ „ 1612
<i>Q</i> 3	=	„ „ 1617
<i>Q</i> 4	=	„ „ 1626
<i>Q</i> 5	=	„ „ 1631
<i>Q</i> 6	=	„ „ 1655
<i>Dod.</i>	=	Dodsley's Old Plays, 1st ed., 1744
<i>Reed</i>	=	Reed's Dodsley, 1780
<i>Col.</i>	=	Collier's Dodsley, 1825
<i>T</i>	=	Tyrrell, 1851
<i>Haz.</i>	=	Hazlitt's Dodsley, 1874-6
<i>WP</i>	=	Warnke and Proescholdt, 1884
<i>Walker</i>	=	'Temple Dramatists' ed., 1897
<i>Daniel</i>	=	Mr. P. A. Daniel's conjectures
<i>pr. ed.</i>	=	present editor

THE MERRY DEVILL OF EDMONTON

{DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

Sir Arthur Clare.
 Sir Richard Mounchensey
 Sir Ralph Jerningham.
 Henry Clare.
 Raymond Mounchensey.
 Frank Jerningham.
 Sir John [a Priest].
 Banks [the Miller of Waltham].
 Smug [the Smith of Edmonton].
 Bilbo
 [Blague the] Host.
 Brian.

[Raph, Brian's man.]
 [Friar Hildersham.]
 [Benedick.]
 [Chamberlaine.]
 [Coreb, a Spirit.]
 Fabel [the Merry Devill].
 Lady Clare.
 Millisent.
 Abbess.
 Sexton.
 Nuns and Attendants.}¹

The Prologue.

Your silence and attention, worthy friends,
 That your free spirits may with more pleasing
 sense

Relish the life of this our actiue sceane:
 To which intent, to calme this murmuring
 breath,

We ring this round with our inuoking spelles;
 If that your listning eares be yet prepar'd 6
 To entertayne the subiect of our play,
 Lend vs your patience.

Tis Peter Fabell, a renowned Scholler,
 Whose fame hath still benee hitherto forgot 10
 By all the writers of this latter age.
 In Middle-sex his birth and his abode,

Not full seauen mile from this great famous
 Citty,

That, for his fame in sleights and magicke
 won,

Was calde the merry Fiend of Edmonton. 15
 If any heere make doubt of such a name,

In Edmonton yet fresh vnto this day,
 Fixt in the wall of that old antient Church,
 His monument remayneth to be seene;

His memory yet in the mouths of men, 20
 That whilst he liude he could deceiue the
 Deuill.

Imagine now that whilst he is retirde
 From Cambridge backe vnto his natieue home,
 Suppose the silent, sable visagde night
 Casts her blacke curtaine ouer all the World;

And whilst he sleepes within his silent bed, 26
 Toylde with the studies of the passed day,
 The very time and houre wherein that spirite
 That many yeeres attended his commaund,

And often times twixt Cambridge and that
 towne 30

¹ Add. Dud. Words in square brackets from WP
 14 sleights Q 1 24 visage Q 3

Had in a minute borne him through the ayre,
 By composition twixt the fiend and him,
 Comes now to claime the Scholler for his due.

[Draw the Curtaines.

Behold him heere, laide on his restlesse couch,
 His fatall chime prepared at his head, 35
 His chamber guarded with these sable slights,
 And by him stands that Necromanticke chaire,
 In which he makes his direfull inuocations,
 And binds the fiends that shall obey his will.
 Sit with a pleased eye, vntill you know 40
 The Commicke end of our sad Tragique show.

[Exit.

{INDUCTION.}

The Chime goes, in which time Fabell is oft seene
 to stare about him, and hold vp his hands

Fa. What meanes the tolling of this fatall
 chime?

O, what a trembling horror strikes my hart!
 My stiffned haire stands vp right on my head,
 As doe the bristles of a porcupine.

Enter Coreb, a Spirit.

Co. Fabell, awake, or I will beare thee
 hence 5

Headlong to hell.

Fa. Ha, ha,

Why dost thou wake me? Coreb, is it thou?

Cor. Tis I.

Fa. I know thee well: I heare the watchfull
 dogs 10

With hollow howling tell of thy approach;
 The lights burne dim, affrighted with thy
 presence;

And this distemperd and tempestuous night
 Tells me the ayre is troubled with some Deuill.

S. D. follows 32 Qq 36 these] his Q 5, 6 Induc-
 tion WP: Scene 1. T S. D. often Q 3 5 or] for
 Haz. 5-6 Prose Qq 7-8 Dir. after me Qq: corr. WP

Cor. Come, art thou ready?
Fab. Whither? or to what? 15
Cor. Why, Scholler, this the houre my date expires;
 I must depart, and come to claime my due.
Fa. Hah, what is thy due?
Cor. Fabell, thy selfe.
Fab. O, let not darkenes heare thee speake that word,
 Lest that with force it hurry hence amaine, 20
 And leaue the world to looke vpon my woe:
 Yet ouerwhelme me with this globe of earth,
 And let a little sparrow with her bill
 Take but so much as shee can beare away,
 That, euery day thus losing of my load, 25
 I may againe in time yet hope to rise.
Cor. Didst thou not write thy name in thine owne blood,
 And drewst the formall deed twixt thee and mee,
 And is it not recorded now in hell?
Fa. Why comst thou in this sterne and horred shape, 30
 Not in familiar sort, as thou wast wont?
Cor. Because the date of thy command is out,
 And I am master of thy skill and thee.
Fa. Coreb, thou angry and impatient spirit,
 I haue earnest busines for a priuate friend; 35
 Reserue me, spirit, vntill some further time.
Cor. I will not for the mines of all the earth.
Fa. Then let me rise, and ere I leaue the world,
 Dispatch some busines that I haue to doe; 39
 And in meane time repose thee in that chayre.
Cor. Fabell, I will. [*Sit downe.*]
Fa. O, that this soule, that cost so great a price
 As the deere pretious blood of her redeemer,
 Inspirde with knowledge, should by that alone
 Which makes a man so meane vnto the powers, 45
 Euen lead him downe into the depth of hell,
 When men in their owne pride strue to know more
 Then man should know!
 For this alone God cast the Angelles downe.
 The infinity of Arts is like a sea, 50
 Into which, when man will take in hand to saile
 Further then reason, which should be his pilot,
 Hath skill to guide him, losing once his compasse,
 He falleth to such deepe and dangerous whirle-
 pooles,
 As he doth lose the very sight of heauen: 55

39 He dispatch Q 2, 4-6 42 great] dear *Dud.*
 45 meane] near Q 6

The more he struiues to come to quiet harbor,
 The further still he finds himselfe from land.
 Man, struiuing still to finde the depth of euill,
 Seeking to be a God, becomes a Deuill.
Cor. Come, Fabell, hast thou done?
Fab. Yes, yes; come hither. 60
Cor. Fabell, I cannot.
Fab. Cannot? — What ailes your hol-
 lownes?
Cor. Good Fabell, helpe me.
Fab. Alas, where lies your grieffe? some
Aqua-vitae!
 The Deuil's very sicke, I feare hee'le die, 65
 For he lookes very ill.
Cor. Darst thou deride the minister of
 darkenes?
 In Lucifers dread name Coreb coniures thee
 To set him free.
Fab. I will not for the mines of all the
 earth, 70
 Vnles thou giue me libertie to see
 Seauen yeares more, before thou sease on mee.
Cor. Fabell, I giue it thee.
Fab. Swear, damned fiend.
Cor. Vnbind me, and by hell I will not
 touch thee,
 Till seauen yeares from this houre be full
 expirde. 75
Fab. Enough, come out.
Cor. A vengeance take thy art!
 Liue and conuert all piety to euill:
 Neuer did man thus ouer-reach the Deuill.
 No time on earth like Phaetontique flames
 Can haue perpetuall being. He returne 80
 To my infernall mansion; but be sure,
 Thy seauen yeeres done, noe tricke shall make
 me tarry,
 But, Coreb, thou to hell shalt Fabell carry.

[Exit.]
Fab. Then thus betwixt vs two this variance
 ends,

Thou to thy fellow Fiends, I to my friends. 85
[Exit.]

(ACT I.

SCENE I. *The George Inn, Waltham.*)

Enter Sir Arthur Clare, Dorcas, his Lady, Milliscent, his daughter, yong Harry Clare; the men booted, the gentlewomen in cloakes and safeguades. Blague, the merry host of the George, comes in with them.

Host. Welcome, good knight, to the George at Waltham, my free-hold, my tenements,

58 finde] know Q 3 68 dread] great Q 4 72
 yeares Q 3, etc.: fiends Q 1, 2 79 Phaetontique
 Q 4-6: Phaetontique Q 1-3: Phaetonic Haz.: Phil-
 gethonic conj. Nicholson 84 between Q 6 Act I.
 Scene I. WP The . . Waltham pr. ed.

goods & chattels. Madam, heer's a roome is the very *Homer* and *Iliads* of a lodging, it hath none of the foure elements in it; I built it out of the Center, and I drinke neere the lesse sacke. Welcome, my little wast of maiden-heads! What? I serue the good Duke of Norfolk.

Clare. God a mercie, my good host Blague: Thou hast a good seate here.

Host. Tis correspondent or so: there's not a Tartarian nor a Carrier shall breath vpon your geldings; they haue villanous rancke feete, the rogues, and they shall not sweat in my linnen. Knights and Lords too haue bene drunke in my house, I thanke the destinies.

Har. Pre' the, good sinful Inkeeper, wil that corruption, thine Ostler, looke well to my gelding. Hay, a poxe a these rushes!

Host. You Saint Dennis, your gelding shall walke without doores, and coole his feete for his masters sake. By the body of S. George, I haue an excellent intellect to go steale some venison: now, when wast thou in the forrest?

Har. Away, you stale messe of white-broth! Come hither, sister, let me helpe you.

Clare. Mine Host, is not Sir Richard Mounchensey come yet, according to our appointment, when we last dinde here?

Host. The knight's not yet apparent. — Marry, heere's a forerunner that summons a parle, and saith, heele be here top and top-gallant presently.

Clare. Tis well, good mine host; goe downe, and see breakfast be provided.

Host. Knight, thy breath hath the force of a woman, it takes me downe; I am for the baser element of the kitchin: I retire like a valiant souldier, face pointe blanke to the foe-man, or, like a Courtier, that must not shew the Prince his posteriors; vanish to know my canuasadoes, and my interrogatories, for I serue the good Duke of Norfolk. [Exit.]

Clare. How doth my Lady? are you not weary, Madam?

Come hither, I must talke in priuate with you;

My daughter Milliscent must not ouer-heare.

Mill. I, whispring; pray God it tend my good!

Strange feare assailes my heart, vsurps my blood.

Clare. You know our meeting with the knight Mounchensey

Is to assure our daughter to his heire.

Dor. Tis, without question.

Clare. Two tedious winters haue past ore, since first

These couple lou'd each other, and in passion Glew'd first their naked hands with youthfull moystrure —

Iust so long, on my knowledge.

Dor. And what of this?

Clare. This morning should my daughter lose her name,

And to Mounchenseys house conuey our armes,

Quartered within his scutchion; th' affiance, made

Twixt him and her, this morning should be sealde.

Dor. I know it should.

Clare. But there are crosses, wife; heere's one in Waltham,

Another at the Abby, and the third

At Cheston; and tis ominous to passe

Any of these without a pater-noster.

Crosses of loue still thwart this marriage,

Whilst that we two, like spirits, walke in night About those stony and hard hearted plots.

Mill. O God, what meanes my father? 70

Clare. For looke you, wife, the riotous old knight

Hath o'rerun his annual reuenue

In keeping iolly Christmas all the yeere:

The nostrilles of his chimney are still stuff

With smoake, more chargeable then Cane-tobacco;

His hawkes deuoure his fattest dogs, whilst simple,

His leanest curres eate him bounds carrion.

Besides, I heard of late, his yonger brother,

A Turkey merchant, hath sure suck'de the knight

By meanes of some great losses on the sea, 80 That, you conceiue mee, before God all (is) naught,

His seate is weake: thus, each thing rightly scand,

You'll see a flight, wife, shortly of his land.

Mill. Treason to my hearts truest soue-raigne:

How soone is loue smothered in foggy gaine! 85

3 is] in Q 2, 4-6 6-18 Center . . destinies] Versc
Qq 21, 22 gelding Q 4, etc.: geldings Q 1-3 34
saith] faith Q 3-6 41 souldiers face Q 1, 3 42
the] his Q 6 43 I vanish WP 49 tend to my
Q 4-6

55 These] This Q 6 68 sprites Q 3 76 dogs]
hogs Haz. 76-7 Simple, his leanest cur Haz. 77
eats Haz. him] his Q 4, etc. 79 A Dod.: Or Qq
sure] sore Q 6 81 is add. Q 6 82 state conj.
Walker

Dor. But how shall we preuent this dangerous match?

Clā. I haue a plot, a tricke, and this it is —

Vnder this colour Ile breake off the match:
Ile tell the knight that now my minde is changd

For marrying of my daughter, for I intend go
To send her vnto Cheston Nunry.

Mill. O me accurst!

Clā. There to become a most religious Nunne.

Mill. Ile first be buried quicke.

Clar. To spend her beauty in most priuate prayers. 95

Mill. Ile sooner be a sinner in forsaking Mother and father.

Clā. How dost like my plot?

Dor. Exceeding well; but is it your intent

Shée shall continue there?

Clā. Continue there? Ha, ha, that were a iest! 100

You know a virgin may continue there
A twelue moneth and a day onely on triall.
There shall my daughter sojourne some three moneths,

And in meane time Ile compasse a faire match

Twixt youthfull Ierningham, the lusty heire
Of Sir Raph Ierningham, dwelling in the forest — 106

I thinke they'le both come hither with Mouchensey.

Dor. Your care argues the loue you beare our childe;

I will subscribe to any thing youle haue me. [Exeunt.

Mill. You will subscribe to it! good, good, tis well; 110

Loue hath two chaires of state, heauen and hell.

My deere Mouchensey, thou my death shalt rue,

Ere to thy heart Milliscent proue vntrue. [Exit.

(SCENE II. *The same.*)

Enter Blague.

Host. Ostlers, you knaues and commanders, take the horses of the knights and competitors: your honourable hulkes haue put into har-borough, theile take in fresh water here, and I haue prouided cleane chamber-pots. *Via, they come!* 6

109 S. D. follows 98 Q 1-3 : om. Q 4-6
WP 6 Voyez Dod.

Scene II.

Enter Sir Richard Mouchensey, Sir Raph Ierningham, yong Franke Ierningham, Raymond Mouchensey, Peter Fabell, and Bilbo.

Host. The destinies be most neate Chamber-laines to these swaggering puritanes, knights of the subsidy.

Sir Moun. God a mercy, good mine host.

Sir Ier. Thankes, good host Blague. 11

Host. Roomo for my case of pistolles, that haue Greeke and Latine bullets in them; let me cling to your flanks, my nimble Giberalters, and blow wind in your calues to make them swell bigger. Ha, Ile caper in mine owne fee-simple; away with puntillioes and Orthography! I serue the good Duke of Norfolk. Bilbo, *Titere tu, patulae recubans sub tegmine fagi.* 20

Bil. Truly, mine host, Bilbo, though he be somewhat out of fashion, will be your onely blade still. I haue a villanous sharp stomacke to slice a breakfast. 24

Host. Thou shalt haue it without any more discontinuance, releases, or attournement. What! we know our termes of hunting and the sea-card.

Bil. And doe you serue the good duke of Norfolkke still? 30

Host. Still, and still, and still, my souldier of S. Quintins: come, follow me; I haue Charles waine below in a but of sacke, t'will glister like your Crab-fish. 34

Bil. You haue fine Scholler-like tearmes; your Coopers Dictionary is your onely booke to study in a celler, a man shall finde very strange words in it. Come, my host, lets serue the good duke of Norfolk. 39

Host. And still, and still, and still, my boy, Ile serue the good duke of Norfolk. [Exeunt Host and Bilbo.

Enter Sir Arthur Clare, Harry Clare and Milliscent.

Ier. Good Sir Arthur Clare!

Clar. What Gentleman is that? I know him not.

Moun. Tis M(aister) Fabell, Sir, a Cambridge scholler,
My sonnes deere friend.

Clar. Sir, I intreat you know me. 45

Fab. Command me, sir; I am affected to you

For your Mouchenseys sake.

19-20 Titere .. fagi given to Bilbo Q 4-6 32

Quintus Q 1, 3 33 t'will I will Q 2, 4-6 S. D.
Exeunt etc. add. Col.

Clar. Alas, for him,
I not respect whether he sinke or swim:
A word in priuate, Sir Raph Ierningham.
Ray. Me thinks your father looketh
strangely on me: 50

Say, loue, why are you sad?
Mill. I am not, sweete;
Passion is strong, when woe with woe doth
meete.

Clar. Shall's in to breakfast? after wee'l
conclude
The cause of this our comming: in and feed,
And let that vs her a more serious deed. 55

Mill. Whilst you desire his grieffe, my
heart shall bleed.

Yong Ier. Raymond Mouchensey, come,
be frolick, friend,
This is the day thou hast expected long.

Ray. Pray God, deere Ierningham, it proue
so happy.

Ier. There's nought can alter it. Be merry,
lad! 60

Fab. There's nought shall alter it. Be
liuely, Raymond!

Stand any opposition gainst thy hope,
Art shall confront it with her largest scope.

[*Exeunt*

(SCENE III. *The same.*)

Peter Fabell, solus.

Fab. Good old Mouchensey, is thy hap
so ill,

That for thy bounty and thy royall parts
Thy kind alliance should be held in scorne,
And after all these promises by Clare
Refuse to giue his daughter to thy sonne, 5
Onely because thy Reuenues cannot reach
To make her dowage of so rich a ioynture
As can the heire of wealthy Ierningham?
And therefore is the false foxe now in hand
To strike a match betwixt her and th' other; 10
And the old gray-beards now are close
together,

Plotting it in the garden. Is't euen so?
Raymond Mouchensey, boy, haue thou and I
Thus long at Cambridge read the liberall Arts,
The Metaphysickes, Magicke, and those parts
Of the most secret deepe philosophy? 16
Haue I so many melancholy nights
Watch'd on the top of Peter-house highest
tower?

And come we backe vnto our natieue home,
For want of skill to lose the wench thou
lou'st? 20

Weele first hang Enuill in such rings of miste

51 sad] so sad Q3 Scene III. WP 4 by Qq:
my Haz. 21 Enuill Qq: Enfield Haz.

As neuer rose from any dampish fenne:
He make the brinde sea to rise at Ware,
And drowne the marshes vnto Stratford
bridge;
He driue the Deere from Waltham in their
walkes, 25
And scatter them like sheepe in euery field.
We may perhaps be crost, but, if we be,
He shall crosse the deuill, that but crosses me.

*Enter Raymond and yong Ierning. (and yong
Clare.)*

But here comes Raymond, disconsolate & sad,
And heeres the gallant that must haue the
wench. 30

(*Ier.*) I pri'thee, Raymond, leaue these
solemne dumps:

Reuiue thy spirits, thou that before hast beene
More watchfull then the day-proclayming
cocke,

As sportiue as a Kid, as francke and merry
As mirth herselfe. 35

If ought in me may thy content procure,
It is thine owne, thou mayst thy selfe assure.

Ray. Ha, Ierningham, if any but thy selfe
Had spoke that word, it would haue come as
cold

As the bleake Northerne winds vpon the face
Of winter. 41

From thee they haue some power vpon my
blood;

Yet being from thee, had but that hollow
sound

Come from the lips of any liuing man,
It might haue won the credite of mine eare; 45
From thee it cannot.

Ier. If I vnderstand thee, I am a villain:
What, dost thou speake in parables to thy
friends?

Clar. Come, boy, and make me this same
groning loue,

Troubled with stitches and the cough a'th
lungs, 50

That wept his eyes out when he was a childe,
And euer since hath shot at hudman-blind,
Make him leape, caper, ierke, and laugh, and
sing,

And play me horse-trickes;
Make Cupid wanton as his mothers doue: 55
But in this sort, boy, I would haue thee loue.

Fab. Why, how now, mad-cap? what, my
lustie Franke,

So neere a wife, and will not tell your friend?
But you will to this geere in hugger-mugger;
Art thou turnde miser, Rascall, in thy loues?

S. D. and yong Clare add. Q6 31 Prefix add.
Q4 40 wind Q3 53 him Daniel; her Qq

Ier. Who, I? z'blood, what should all you see in me, that I should looke like a married man, ha? Am I balde? are my legs too little for my hose? If I feele any thing in my forehead, I am a villain: doe I weare a night-cap? doe I bend in the hams? What dost thou see in me, that I should be towards marriage, ha? 68

Clā. What, thou married? let me looke vpon thee, Rogue; who has giuen out this of thee? how camst thou into this ill name? what company hast thou bin in, Rascall? 72

Fab. You are the man, sir, must haue Millescent:

The match is making in the garden now; Her ioynture is agreed on, and th' old men, 75 Your fathers, meane to lanch their busy bags; But in meane time to thrust Mouchensey off, For colour of this new intended match, Faire Millescent to Cheston must be sent, To take the approbation for a Nun. 80

Nere looke vpon me, lad, the match is done.

Ier. Raymond Mouchensey, now I touch thy grieife

With the true feeling of a zealous friend. And as for faire and beauteous Millescent, With my vaine breath I will not seeke to slubber 85

Her angell like perfections; but thou know'st That Essex hath the Saint that I adore.

Where ere did we meete thee and wanton springs,

That like a wag thou hast not laught at me, And with regardles iesting mockt my loue? 90 How many a sad and weary summer night My sighs haue drunke the dew from off the earth,

<And> I haue taught the Niting-gale to wake, And from the meadows spring the earely Larke

An houre before she should haue list to sing: I haue loaded the poore minutes with my moanes, 96

That I haue made the heauy slow pasde houres To hang like heauie clogs vpon the day.

But, deere Mouchensey, had not my affection Seaside on the beauty of another dame, 100 Before I would wrong the chase, and ouergieue loue

Of one so worthy and so true a friend, I will abiure both beauty and her sight, And will in loue become a counterfeit.

61-5 am Verse Q₁ 88-9 did... That Q₁, 3: did'st meete me, but (that Q₆) we two were iouiall, But Q₂, 4-6 88 and? in 93 And om. Q₁, 3 94 Spring Q₁, 3: sprung Q₂, 4-6 95 list rest Q₁, 3 101 I'de Q₃ wrong Q₂-6: vnage Q₁ ouergieue Q₁, 3: leaue Q₂, 4-6

Mounl. Deere Ierningham, thou hast begot my life, 105

And from the mouth of hell, where now I sate, I feele my spirit rebound against the stars:

Thou hast conquerd me, deere friend, in my free soule;

Their time nor death can by their power controule.

Fab. Franke Ierningham, thou art a gallant boy; 110

And were he not my pupill, I would say He were as fine a metled gentleman,

Of as free spirit, and of as fine a temper As is in England; and he is a man

That very richly may deserue thy loue. 115

But, noble Clare, this while of our discourse,

What may Mouchenseys honour to thy selfe Exact vpon the measure of thy grace?

Clar. Raymond Mouchensey, I would haue thee know,

He does not breath this ayre, 120

Whose loue I cherish, and whose soule I loue More then Mouchenseyes:

Nor euer in my life did see the man

Whom, for his wit and many vertuous parts, I thinke more worthy of my sisters loue. 125

But since the matter growes vnto this passe,

I must not seeme to crosse my Fathers will;

But when thou list to visit her by night,

My horses saddled, and the stable doore

Stands ready for thee; vse them at thy pleasure. 130

In honest mariage wed her frankly, boy,

And if thou getst her, lad, God giue thee ioy!

Mounl. Then, care, away! let fates my fall pretend,

Backt with the fauours of so true a friend!

Fab. Let vs alone, to bussell for the set; 135

For age and craft with wit and Art haue met.

Ile make my spirits to dance such nightly fogs

Along the way twixt this and Totnam crosse,

The Carriers Iades shall cast their heauie

packs,

And the strong hedges scarce shall keepe

them in: 140

The Milke-maides Cuts shall turne the wenches

off,

And lay the Dossers tumbling in the dust:

The franke and merry London prentises,

That come for creame and lusty country cheere,

Shall lose their way; and, scrambling in the

ditches, 145

All night shall whoop and hollow, cry and call,

109 Their (= There)] Neither WP nor Q₃: or Q₁,

2, 4-6 114 om. Q₁ 129 horse is Q₄, etc. 133

Fate Q₄, etc. 136 haue] hath Q₄-6 137 fogs

om. Q₃ 142 lay their Q₄-6

Yet none to other finde the way at all.

Mount. Pursue the proiect, scholler: what we can do

To helpe indeauour, ioyne our liues thereto!
(*Exeunt.*)

(ACT II.)

SCENE I. *Waltham: The house of Banks.*

Enter Banks, Sir Iohn and Smug.

Banks. Take me with you, good Sir Iohn! A plague on thee, Smug, and thou touchest liquor, thou art foundered straight. What, are your braines alwayes water-milles? must they euer runne round? 5

Smug. Banks, your ale is a Philistine fox; z'hart, theres fire i'th taile on't; you are a rogue to charge vs with Mugs i'th rereward. A plague of this winde; O, it tickles our Catastrophe. 10

Sir Io. Neighbour Banks of Waltham, and Goodman Smug, the honest Smith of Edmonton, as I dwell betwixt you both at Enfield, I know the taste of both your ale houses, they are good both, smart both. Hem, Grasse and hay! we are all mortall; let's liue till we die, and be merry; and theres an end.

Banks. Well said, sir Iohn, you are of the same humor still; and doth the water runne the same way still, boy? 20

Smug. Vulcan was a rogue to him; Sir Iohn, locke, lock, lock fast, sir Iohn; so, sir Iohn. Ile one of these yeares, when it shall please the Goddesses and the destinies, be drunke in your company; thats all now, and God send vs health: shall I sweare I loue you?

Sir Io. No oathes, no oaths, good neighbour Smug! Weel wet our lips together and hugge; Carrouse in priuate, and eleuate the hart, and the liuer and the lights,—and the lights, marke you me, within vs; for hem, Grasse and hay! we are all mortall, lets liue till we die, and be Merry, and thers an end.

Banks. But to our former motion about stealing some venison; whither goe we? 35

Sir Io. Into the forrest, neighbour Banks, into Brians walke, the madde keeper.

Smug. Z' blood! Ile tickle your keeper.

Banks. Yfaith, thou art alwayes drunke when we haue neede of thee. 40

Smug. Neede of mee? z' hart, you shall haue neede of mee alwayes while theres yron in an Anuill.

Banks. M(aister) Parson, may the Smith goe, thinke you, being in this taking? 45

147 Yet] And Q 2, 4-6 S.D. Exeunt add. Q 4 Act II. Scene I. WP 7 on't] out Q 1-3 28 and Q 2, 4-6: in Q 1, 3 . 27-33 Verse Qq

Smug. Go? Ile goe in spight of all the belles in Iwaltham.

Sir Io. The question is, good neighbour Banks—let mee see: the Moone shines to night,—ther's not a narrow bridge betwixt this and the forrest,—his braine will be settled ere night; he may go, he may go, neighbour Banks. Now we want none but the company of mine host Blague at the George at Waltham; if he were here, our Consort were full. Looke where comes my good host, the Duke of Norfolks man! and how? and how? a hem, grasse and hay! wee are not yet mortall; lets liue till we die, and be merry; and ther's an end. 60

Enter Host.

Host. Ha, my Castilian dialogues! and art thou in breath stil, boy? Miller, doth the match hold? Smith, I see by thy eyes thou hast bin reading little Geneua print: but wend we merrily to the forrest, to steale some of the kings Deere. Ile meet you at the time appointed: away, I haue Knights and Colonells at my house, & must tend the Hungarians. If we be scard in the forrest, weelee meete in the Church-porch at Enfield; ist Correspondent? 71

Ban. Tis well; but how, if any of vs should be taken?

Sm. He shall haue ransome, by the Lord.

Host. Tush, the knaue keepers are my bosonians & my pensioners. Nine a clocke be valiant, my little Gogmagogs; Ile fence with all the Iustices in Hartford shire. Ile haue a Bucke til I die; Ile slay a Doe while I liue; hold your bow straight and steady. I serue the good duke of Norfolk. 81

Smug. O rare! who, ho, ho, boy!

Sir Io. Peace, neighbor Smug. You see this is a Boore, a Boore of the country, an illiterate Boore, and yet the Cittizen of good fellows: come, lets prouide; a hem, Grasse and hay! wee are not yet all mortall; weel liue till we die, and be merry, and theres an end. Come, Smug! 89

Smug. Good night, Waltham—who, ho, ho, boy! [*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE II. *The George Inn.*)

Enter the Knights and Gentlemen from breakfast againe.

Old Moun. Nor I for thee, Clare, not of this.

50 not a narrow] narrow a conj. Daniel 51 will] may Q 2, 4-6 54 of the George Q 2, 4-6 74 by my sword Q 4-6 84 is a conj. Q 2, 4-6 86 prouide a hen Qq; corr. Dod. Scene II. WP

What? hast thou fed me all this while with shalles.

And com'st to tell me now, thou lik'st it not?

Cl. I doe not hold thy offer competent;
Nor doe I like th' assurance of thy Land, 5
The title is so brangled with thy debts.

Old Mo. Too good for thee; and, knight,
thou knowst it well,

I fawnd not on thee for thy goods, not I;
Twas thine owne motion; that thy wife doth know.

Lad. Husband, it was so; he lies not in that. 10

Clar. Hold thy chat, queane.

Old Moun. To which I hearkned willingly,
and the rather,

Because I was perswaded it proceeded
From loue thou bor'st to me and to my boy;
And gau'st him free accesse vnto thy house, 15
Where he hath not behaude him to thy childe,
But as befits a gentleman to doe:

Nor is my poore distressed state so low,
That Ile shut vp my doores, I warrant thee.

(Cl.) Let it suffice, Mountchensey, I mislike it; 20

Nor thinke thy sonne a match fit for my childe.

(Moun.) I tell thee, Clare, his blood is good
and cleere

As the best drop that panteth in thy veines:
But for this maide, thy faire and vertuous childe,

She is no more disparagd by thy basenes 25
Then the most orient and the pretious iewell,
Which still retaines his lustre and his beauty,
Although a slaue were owner of the same.

Cl. She is the last is left me to bestow,
And her I meane to dedicate to God. 30

Moun. You doe, sir?

Cl. Sir, sir, she is mine owne.

Moun. And pity she is so!
Damnation dog thee and thy wretched pelfe! 35

Cl. Not thou, Mountchensey, shalt bestow my childe.

Moun. Neither shouldst thou bestow her where thou mean'st. 35

Cl. What wilt thou doe?

Moun. No matter, let that bee;
I wil doe that, perhaps, shall anger thee:

Thou hast wrongd my loue, and, by Gods blessed Angell,

Thou shalt well know it.

Cl. Tut, braue not me.

Moun. Braue thee, base Churle! were't not for man-hood sake— 40

I say no more, but that there be some by
Whose blood is hotter then ours is,
Which being stird might make vs both repent

This foolish meeting. But, Harry Clare,
Although thy father haue abused my friendship, 45

Yet I loue thee, I doe, my noble boy,
I doe, yfaith.

Lady. I, doe, do!

Fill all the world with talke of vs, man, man;
I neuer lookt for better at your hands. 50

Fab. I hop'd your great experience and your yeeres

Would haue prou'de patience rather to your soule,

Then with this frantique and vntamed passion
To whet their skeens; and, but for that

I hope their friendships are too well confimd,
And their minds temperd with more kindly heat, 56

Then for their froward parents soares

That they should breake forth into publike brawles —

How ere the rough hand of th' vntoward world

Hath moulded your proceedings in this matter, 60

Yet I am sure the first intent was loue:

Then since the first spring was so sweet and warme,

Let it die gently; ne're kill it with a scorne.

Ray. O thou base world, how leprous is that soule

That is once lim'd in that polluted mudde! 65
Oh, sir Arthur, you haue startled his free actiue spirits

With a too sharpe spur for his minde to beare.
Haue patience, sir: the remedy to woe
Is to leaue what of force we must forgoe.

Mill. And I must take a twelue moneths approbation, 70

That in meane time this sole and priuate life

At the yeares end may fashion me a wife:

But, sweet Mountchensey, ere this yeare be done,

Thou'st be a frier, if that I be a Nun.

And, father, ere yong Ierninghams Ile bee, 75
I will turne mad to spight both him and thee.

44 Harry Q 6: Raph Q 1, 2: Ralph Q 3-5 45
hath Q 5, 6 49-50 One line Qq 51 froward Q 4-6:
hope Q 1-3 54 for om. Q 1-3 57 froward Q 1, 2:
forward Q 2, 4-6: soares Q 1-3: frowardnesse Q 4-6
69 what Q 1-3: that Q 4-6

5 Land Q 4-6: loue Q 1-3 20, 22 Prefires om.
Q 1-3 22 I Q 4-6, etc.: To Q 1-3 25 no om. Q 2,
4, 5 28 the owner Q 3 S. D. aside printed as
part of 33 Q 1-3 38 by a blessed Q 4-6

Cla. Wife, come, to horse, and, huswife,
make you ready;
For, if I liue, I sweare by this good light,
Ile see you lodgde in Chesson house to night.

(*Exeunt.*)

Moun. Raymond, away! Thou seest how
matters fall. 80

Churle, hell consume thee, and thy pelfe, and all!

Fab. Now, M(aister) Clare, you see how
matters fadge;

Your Milliscent must needes be made a Nun.
Well, sir, we are the men must plie this match:

Hold you your peace, and be a looker on, 85
And send her vnto Chesson—where he will,

Ile send mee fellowes of a handfull hie
Into the Cloysters where the Nuns frequent,

Shall make them skip like Does about the
Dale,

And with the Lady prioresse of the house 90
To play at leape-froge, naked in their smockes,

Vntill the merry wenches at their masse
Cry teehee weehee;

And tickling these mad lasses in their flankes,
They'll sprawle, and squeke, and pinch their

fellow Nunnes. 95
Be liuely, boyes, before the wench we lose,
Ile make the Abbas weare the Cannons hose.

(*Exeunt.*)

(SCENE III. *The same.*)

*Enter Harry Clare, Francke Ierningham, Peter
Fabell, and Milliscent.*

Ha. Cla. Spight now hath done her worst;
sister, be patient.

Ier. Forewarnd poore Raymonds com-
pany! O heauen!

When the composure of weake frailtie meete
Vpon this mart of durt, O, then weake loue

Must in hir owne vnhappyne be silent, 5
And winck on all deformities.

Milli. Tis well:
Whers Raymond, brother? whers my deere

Mouchensey?
Would wee might weepe together and then

part;
Our sighing parle would much ease my heart.

Fab. Sweete beautie, fould your sorrowes
in the thought 10

Of future reconcilment: let your teares
Shew you a woman; but be no farther spent

Then from the eyes; for, sweete, experience
says

That loue is firme thats flattered with delayes.

79 this night Q 3 S. D. Exeunt add. Q 4 84
plie] pile Q 3 86 where] when Haz. 90 Ends

play Q 1-3 with Daniel: make Qq 91 her smock
Dod. 85 They'll Daniel: Shall Qq Scene III. WP

2 O] to Q 1-3

Milli. Alas, sir, thinke you I shall ere be
his? 15

Fab. As sure as parting smiles on future
blisse.

Yond comes my friend: see, he hath doted
So long vpon your beautie, that your want

Will with a pale retirement wast his blood;
For in true loue Musicke doth sweetly dwell:

Seuerd, theese lesse worlds beare within them
hell. 21

Enter Mouchensey.

Mount. Harry and Francke, you are en-
ioynd to waine

Your friendship from mee; we must part:
the breath

Of all aduised corruption—pardon mee!
Faith, I must say so;—you may thinke I loue

you; 25
I breath not, rougher spight do seuer vs;

Weele meete by stealth, sweet friend,—by
stealth, you twaine;

Kisses are sweetest got with strugling paine.
Ier. Our friendship dies not, Raymond.

Mount. Pardon mee:
I am busied; I haue lost my faculties, 30

And buried them in Milliscents cleere eyes.
Mill. Alas, sweete Loue, what shall

become of me?
I must to Chesson to the Nunry,

I shall nere see thee more.
Moun. How, sweete?

Ile be thy votary, weele often meete: 35
This kisse diuides vs, and breathes soft

adiew, —
This be a double charme to keepe both true:

Fab. Haue done: your fathers may chance
spie your parting.

Refuse not you by any meanes, good sweetnes,
To goe vnto the Nunnery; farre from hence 40

Must wee beget your loues sweete happines.
You shall not stay there long; your harder bed

Shall be more soft when Nun and maide are
dead.

Enter Bilbo.

Moun. Now, sirra, whats the matter? 44
Bil. Marry, you must to horse presently;

that villanous olde gowty churle, Sir Arthur
Clare, longs till he be at the Nunry.

Ha. Cla. How, sir?
(*Bil.*) O, I cry you mercy, he is your father,

sir, indeed; but I am sure that theres lesse

16 panting Q 1-3 17 Yonder Q 3 22-4 Prose
Q 1-5 24 all Qq: ill Haz.: old Daniel 26 do

Qq: to Haz.: doth Daniel 27 meet by steale Q 1-8
friends Q 6 46 Arthur T: Richard Qq 49 Bil.
add. Q 6 50 sir om. Q 3

affinitie betwixt your two natures then there
is betweene a broker and a cutpurse. 52

Moun. Bring my gelding, sirra.

Bil. Well, nothing grieues me, but for the
poore wench; she must now cry *vale* to
Lobster pies, hartichokes, and all such meates
of mortalitie; poore gentlewoman, the signe
must not in virgo any longer with her,
and that me grieues full well. 59

Poore Milliscent

Must pray and repent:

O fatall wonder!

Sheele now be no fatter,

Loue must not come at her,

Yet she shall be kept vnder. 65

[Exit.

Ier. Farwell, deere Raymond.

Ha. Cla. Friend, adew.

Mill.

Deere sweete,

No ioy enioyes my hearte till wee next meete.

[Exeunt.

Fab. Well, Raymond, now the tide of dis-
content

Beats in thy face; but, er't be long, the wind
Shall turne the flood. Wee must to Waltham
abby, 70

And as faire Milliscent in Cheston liues,
A most vnwilling Nun, so thou shalt there
Become a beardles Nouice; to what end,
Let time and future accidents declare:
Tast thou my sleights, thy loue ile onely share.

Moun. Turne frier? Come, my good

Counsellor, lets goe, 76

Yet that disguise will hardly shrowd my woe.
[Exeunt.

(ACT III.

SCENE I. Cheston Priory.)

Enter the Prioress of Cheston, with a Nun or
two, Sir Arthur Clare, Sir Raph Ierningham,
Henry and Francke, the Lady, and Bilbo,
with Milliscent.

La. Cla. Madam,

The loue vnto this holy sisterhood,
And our confirm opinion of your zeale
Hath truely wonne vs to bestow our Childe
Rather on this then any neighbouring Cell. 5

Pri. Ihesus daughter, Maries childe,
Holy matron, woman milde,
For thee a masse shall still be sayd,
Euery sister drop a bead;
And those againe succeeding them 10
For you shall sing a Requiem.

Frank. The wench is gone, Harry; she is
no more a woman of this world: marke her

well, shee lookes like a Nun already. What
thinkst on her? 15

Har. By my faith, her face comes hand-
somly to 't. But peace, lets heare the rest.

Sir Ar. Madam, for a tweluemonths
approbation,

Wee meane to make this triall of our childe.
Your care and our deere blessing in meane
time 20

Wee pray may prosper this intended worke.

Pri. May your happy soule be blithe,

That so truly pay your tithe:

He who many children gaue,

Tis fit that he one child should haue.

Then, faire virgin, heare my spell, 26

For I must your duty tell.

Mill.—Good men and true, stand together,
and heare your charge.

Pri. First, a mornings take your booke, 30
The glasse wherein your selfe must
looke;

Your young thoughts, so proud and
iolly,

Must be turnd to motions holy;

For your buske, attires, and toys

Haue your thoughts on heavenly ioyes;

And for all your follies past 36

You must do penance, pray, and fast.

Bil.—Let her take heed of fasting; and if
euer she hurt her selfe with praying, Ile nere
trust beast. 40

Mill.—This goes hard, berladye!

Pri. You shall ring the sacring bell,

Keepe your howers, and tell your
knell,

Rise at midnight to your mattens,

Readyour Psalter, sing your lattins, 45

And when your blood shall kindle
pleasure,

Scourge your selfe in plenteous mea-
sure.

Mil.—Worse and worse, by Saint Mary.

Fr.—Sirra Hal, how does she hold hir
countenance? Wel, goethy wayes, if euer thou
proue a Nun, Ile build an Abby. 51

Har.—She may be a Nun; but if euer shee
proue an Anchoresse, Ile dig her graue with
my niales.

Fra.—To her againe, mother! 55

Har.—Hold thine owne, wench!

Prio. You must read the mornings masse,

You must creepe vnto the Crosse,

Put cold ashes on your head,

Haue a haire cloth for your bed. 60

Bil.—She had rather haue a man in her bed.

59 fall well Q 2, 3 : farewell Q 4-6 Act III.
Scene I, WP 11 sing) ring Q 1 : ring Q 2

42 sacring Q 2-6 : sauing Q 1 43 tell) toll Haz.
55 morning Q 2, etc.

Prio. Bid your beads, and tell your needes,
Your holy Auiies, and your Creedes;
Holy maide, this must be done,
Yf you meane to liue a Nun. 65

Mill.—The holy maide will be no Nun.

Sir Ar. Madam, we haue some busines of import,

And must be gone.

Wilt please you take my wife into your closet,

Who further will acquaint you with my mind;
And so, good madam, for this time adiew. 71

(*Exeunt women.*)

Sir Ra. Well now, Francke Ierningham,
how saiest thou?

To be breefe,—

What wilt thou say for all this, if we two,
Her father and my selfe, can bring about,
That we conuert this Nun to be a wife, 75
And thou the husband to this pretty Nun?
How then, my lad? ha, Francke, it may be done.

Har.—I, now it workes.

Fra. O God, sir, you amaze mee at your words;

Thinke with your selfe, sir, what a thing it were 80

To cause a recluse to remoue her vow:

A maymed, contrite, and repentant soule,
Euer mortified with fasting and with prayer,
Whose thoughts, euen as hir eyes, are fixd on heauen,

To drawe a virgin, thus deuour'd with zeale,
Backe to the world: O impious deede! 86

Nor by the Canon Law can it be done
Without a dispensation from the Church:
Besides, she is so prone vnto this life,
As sheele euen shreeke to heare a husband namde. 90

Bil.—I, a poore innocent shee! Well, heres no knaury; she flowts the old foolos to their teeth.

Sir Raph. Boy, I am glad to heare 94

Thou mak'st such scruple of that conscience;
And in a man so young as is your selfe,
I promise you tis very seldome seene.

But Franke, this is a tricke, a meere deuise,
A sleight plotted betwixt her father and my selfe,

To thrust Mounchenseys nose besides the cushion; 100

That, being thus debard of all accesse,
Time yet may worke him from her thoughts,
And giue thee ample scope to thy desires.

Bil.—A plague on you both for a couple of Iewes! 105

Har.—How now, Franke, what say you to that?

Fran.—Let me alone, I warrant thee.—
Sir, assurde that this motion doth proceede
From your most kinde and fatherly affection,
I do dispose my liking to your pleasure: 111
But for it is a matter of such moment
As holy marriage, I must craue thus much,
To haue some conference with my ghostly father,

Frier Hildersham, here by, at Waltham Abby,
To be absolute of things that it is fit 116
None only but my confessor should know.

Sir Ra. With all my heart: he is a reuerend man;

And to morrow morning wee will meet all at the Abby,

Where by th' opinion of that reuerend man
Wee will proceede; I like it passing well. 121
Till then we part, boy; I, thinke of it; fare-well!

A parents care no mortall tongue can tell.
(*Exeunt.*)

(SCENE II. *Before the Priory Gate.*)

Enter Sir Arthur Clare, and Raymond Mounchensey, like a Frier.

Sir Ar. Holy yong Nouice, I haue told you now

My full intent, and doe refer the rest

To your professed secrecy and care:

And see,
Our serious speech hath stolne vpon the way,
That we are come vnto the Abby gate. 6

Because I know Mounchensey is a foxe,
That craftily doth ouerlooke my doings,
He not be seene, not I. Tush, I haue done:
I had a daughter, but shee's now a Nun. 10
Farewell, deere sonne, farewell. [*Exit.*]

Moun. Fare you well! — I, you haue done!

Your daughter, sir, shall not be long a Nun.
O my rare Tutor! neuer mortall braine

Plotted out such a masse of policie; 15
And my deere bosome is so great with

laughter,
Begot by his simplicity and error,
My soule is fallen in labour with her ioy.

O my true friends, Franke Ierningham and Clare,

Did you now know but how this iest takes fire— 20

118 *Sir Ra. Q 6: Sir Ar. Q 1-5* 118-20 *Prose Qq*
120 *opinion Q 1* 122 *I thinke Qq* Scene II. *WP*
11 *sonne Q 1, 4-6: omne Q 2: one Q 3* 15 *masse*
Q 1-3: plot Q 4, 5: piece Q 6 19 *true om. Q 5*
20 *now Q 1-4: but Q 5, 6*

That good sir Arthur, thinking me a nouice,
Hath euen powrd himselfe into my bosome,
O, you would vent your spleenes with tickling
mirth!

But, Raymond, peace, and haue an eye about,
For feare perhaps some of the Nuns looke out.

Peace and charity within, 26

Neuer touch't with deadly sin;
I cast my holy water pure

On this wall and on this doore,

That from euill shall defend, 30

And keepe you from the vgly fiend:

Euill spirit, by night nor day,

Shall approach or come this way;

Elfe nor Fary, by this grace,

Day nor night shall haunt this place. 35

Holy maidens! [Knocke.]

[Answered within.] Who's that which knocks?

ha, who's there?

Mount. Gentle Nun, here is a Frier.

Enter Nun.

Nun. A Frier without, now Christ vs saue!
Holy man, what wouldst thou haue?

Mount. Holy mayde, I hither come 41

From Frier and father Hildersome,

By the fauour and the grace

Of the Prioresse of this place,

Amongst you all to visit one 45

That's come for approbation;

Before she was as now you are,

The daughter of Sir Arthur Clare,

But since shee now became a Nun,

Call'd Milliscent of Edmunton. 50

Nun. Holy man, repose you there;

This newes Ile to our Abbas beare,

To tell her what a man is sent,

And your message and intent.

Mount. Benedicite. 55

Nun. Benedicite. [Exit.]

Mount. Doe, my good plumpe wench; if all

fall right,

Ile make your sister-hood one lesse by night.

Now happy fortune speede this merry drift,

I like a wench comes roundly to her shrift. 60

Enter Lady, Milliscent.

Lad. Haue Friers recourse then to the
house of Nuns?

Mill. Madam, it is the order of this place,
When any virgin comes for approbation,—

Lest that for feare or such sinister practise
Shee should be forde to vndergoe this vaile,

Which should proceed from conscience and
deuotion,— 66

A visitor is sent from Waltham house,
To take the true confession of the maide.

Lady. Is that the order? I commend it well:

You to your shrift, Ile backe vnto the cell. 70

[Exit.]

Mount. Life of my soule! bright Angell!

Mill. What meanes the Frier?

Mount. O Milliscent, tis I.

Mill. My heart misgiues me; I should know
that voyce.

You? who are you? The holy virgin blesse me!

Tell me your name: you shall, ere you confesse
me. 75

Mount. Mountchensy, thy true friend.

Mill. My Raymond, my deere heart!

Sweete life, giue leaue to my distracted soule,
To wake a little from this swoone of ioy.

By what meanes camst thou to assume this
shape? 80

Mount. By meanes of Peter Fabell, my
kind Tutor,

Who in the habite of Frier Hildersham,
Franke Ierninghams old friend and confessor,

(Helped me to act the part of priestly nouice,)

Plotted by Franke, by Fabell and my selfe, 85

And so deliuered to Sir Arthur Clare,

Who brought me heere vnto the Abby gate,

To be his Nun-made daughters visitor.

Mill. You are all sweete traytors to my
poore old father.

O my deere life! I was a dream't to night 90

That, as I was a praying in mine Psalter,

There came a spirit vnto me as I kneeld,

And by his strong perswasions tempted me

To leaue this Nunry; and me thought

He came in the most glorious Angell shape, 95

That mortall eye did euer looke vpon.

Ha, thou art sure that spirit, for theres no
forme

Is in mine eye so glorious as thine owne.

Mount. O thou Idolatresse, that dost this
worship

To him whose likenes is but praise of thee! 100
Thou bright vnsetting star, which through
this vaile,

For very enuy, mak'st the Sun looke pale!

Mill. Well, visitor, lest that perhaps my
mother

Should thinke the Frier too strickt in his
decrees,

I this confesse to my sweet ghostly father:

If chaste pure loue be sin, I must confesse, 106

22 Had WP 28 my om. Q4-6 pure Q6: poore
Q1-5 36 Holy maidens knocke printed as S. D.
Q7: corr. Dod. 53 her om. Q1, 2, 4-6 64 or
such Q1, 2, 4-6: of some Q3: or Walker

84 A line here appears to have been lost: Helped ..
nouice conj. pr. ed. 85 Fabell] Harry WP 91
a om. Q2, etc. mine Q1, 2, 4: my Q3, 5, 6

I haue offended three yeares now with thee.

Mounl. But doe you yet repent you of the same?

Mill. Yfaith, I cannot.

Moun. Nor will I absolue thee
Of that sweete sin, though it be venial; 110
Yet haue the pennance of a thousand kisses,
And I enioyne you to this pilgrimage:

That in the euening you bestow your selfe
Heere in the walke neere to the willow
ground, 114

Where Ile be ready both with men and horse
To waite your comming, and conuey you hence
Vnto a lodge I haue in Enfield chase.

No more replie, if that you yeeld consent —
I see more eyes vpon our stay are bent.

Mill. Sweete life, farewell! Tis done: let
that suffice; 120

What my tongue failes, I send thee by mine
eyes. [Exit.

Enter Fabell, Clare, and Ierningham.

Ier. Now, Visitor, how does this new made
Nun?

Clare. Come, come, how does she, noble
Capouchin?

Moun. She may be poore in spirit, but for
the flesh,

Tis fatte and plumpe, boyes. Ah, rogues,
there is 125

A company of girles would turne you all
Friers.

Fab. But how, Mountchensey? how, lad,
for the wench?

Moun. Sound, lads, yfaith; I thanke my
holy habit,

I haue confest her, and the Lady Prioress
Hath giuen me ghostly counsell with hir
blessing. 130

And how say yee, boyes,
If I be chose the weekly visitor?

Clare. Z'blood, sheel haue nere a Nun
vnbadg to sing masse then.

Ier. The Abbat of Waltham will haue as
many Children to put to nurse as he has
calues in the Marsh. 137

Moun. Well, to be breefe, the Nun will
soone at night turne tippit; if I can but devise
to quit her cleanly of the Nunry, she is mine
owne. 141

Fab. But, Sirra Raymond,

What newes of Peter Fabell at the house?

Moun. Tush, hees the onely man;

A Necromancer and a Coniurer 145

124-6 Two lines Qq, dir. after boyes: corr. Col. 128
Zounds Q 4-6 129-30 Prose Q 1-5 139 tippit Col.;
lippit Qq can om. Q 3 142-50 Prose Qq: corr. WP

That workes for yong Mountchensey alto-
gether;

And if it be not for Fryer Benedicke,
That he can crosse him by his learned skill,
The Wench is gone;

Fabell will fetch her out by very magicke.

Fab. Stands the winde there, boy? keepe
them in that key. 151

The wench is ours before to-morrow day.
Well, Hal and Franke, as ye are gentlemen,
Sticke to vs close this once! You know your
fathers

Haue men and horse lie ready still at Chesson,
To watch the coast be cleere, to scowt about,
& haue an eye vnto Mountchenseys walks:
Therefore you two may houer thereabouts,
And no man will suspect you for the matter;
Be ready but to take her at our hands, 160
Leaue vs to scramble for hir getting out.

Ier. Z'blood, if al Herford-shire were at
our heeles,

Weele carry her away in spight of them.

Clare. But whither, Raymond?

Moun. To Brians vpper lodge in Enfield
Chase; 165

He is mine honest Friend and a tall keeper;

Ile send my man vnto him presently

T' acquaint him with your comminge and
intent.

Fab. Be breefe and secret.

Moun. Soon at night remember 169
You bring your horses to the willow ground.

Ier. Tis done; no more!

Clare. We will not faile the hower.
My life and fortune now lies in your power.

Fab. About our busines! Raymond, lets
away!

Thinke of your hower; it drawes well of the
day. [Exit.

(ACT IV.

SCENE I. Enfield Chase.)

Enter Blague, Banks, Smug, and Sir Iohn.

Bla. Come, yee Hungarian pilchers, we
are once more come vnder the *zona torrida* of
the Forrest. Lets be resolute, lets fie to and
again; and if the deuill come, weele put him
to his Interrogatories, and not budge a foote.
What? s'foote, ile put fire into you, yee shall
all three serue the good Duke of Norfolk. 7

Smu. Mine host, my bully, my pretious
consull, my noble Holefernes, I haue bin
drunke i' thy house twenty times and ten,

148 him by om. Q 3 153 Hal pr. ed.: Ra(Uph
Q 1-5: Harry Q 6, dir. 153-63 Prose Qq: corr. Col.
157 Mountchensey Q 1 walke Q 3 160 our your
Q 3 165-8 Prose Qq: corr. Col. Act. IV. Scene I.
WP 10 thy th Q 3

all's one for that: I was last night in the third heauens, my braine was poore, it had yest in 't; but now I am a man of action; is 't not so, lad? 14

Banks. Why, now thou hast two of the liberrall sciences about thee, wit and reason, thou maist serue the Duke of Europe.

Smu. I will serue the Duke of Christendom, and doe him more credit in his celler then all the plate in his buttery; is 't not so, lad? 21

Sir Ioh. Mine host and Smug, stand there; Banks, you and your horse keepe together; but lie close, shew no trickes, for feare of the keeper. If we be scard, weel meete in the Church-porch at Enfield. 26

Smug. Content, sir Iohn.

Banks. Smug, dost not thou remember the tree thou felst out of last night? 29

Smug. Tush, and 't had bin as high as the Abby. I should nere haue hurt my selfe; I haue fallen into the riuer, comming home from Waltham, and scapt drowning.

Sir Io. Come, seuer, feare no sprits! weelee haue a Bucke presently; we haue watched later then this for a Doe, mine Host. 36

Host. Thou speakst as true as veluet.

Sir Io. Why then, come! Grasse and hay, &c. [Exeunt. 38

Enter Clare, Ierningham and Milliscent.

Clar. Franke Ierningham! 40

Ier. Speake softly, rogue; how now?

Clar. S'foot, we shall lose our way, it's so darke; wherabouts are we?

Ier. Why, man, at Potters gate; the way lies right: harken! the clocke strikes at Enfield; whats the houre? 46

Clare. Ten, the bell sayes.

Ier. A lies in's throat, it was but eight when we set out of Chesson. Sir Iohn and his Sexton are at ale to night, the clocke runs at random. 51

Clare. Nay, as sure as thou liu'st, the villanous vicar is abroad in the chase this darke night: the stone Priest steales more venison then halfe the country. 55

Ier. Milliscent, how dost thou?

Mill. Sir, very well.

I would to God we were at Brians lodge.

Clare. We shall anon; z'ounds, harken! What meanes this noyse?

Ier. Stay, I heare horsemen.

12 heauen Q 4-6 it i't Q 1 15 Banks] Bil(bo) Q 1-3 20-1 so, lad om. Q 3 25 in] at Q 3 30 the Q 1, 3: an Q 2, 4-6 34 feare] care Q 1 44 Potters Q 2, 3-6 50 at] at their Q 4-6 58 Zounds Q 1-3: pounes Q 4-6

Clare. I heare footmen too. 60
Ier. Nay, then I haue it: we haue bin discouerd,

And we are followed by our fathers men.

Mill. Brother and friend, alas, what shall we doe?

Clare. Sister, speake softly, or we are descride. 64

They are hard vpon vs, what so ere they be; Shadow your selfe behind this brake of ferne, Weele get into the wood, and let them passe.

Enter Sir Iohn, Blague, Smug, and Banks, one after another.

Sir Io. Grasse and hay! wee are all mortall; the keepers abroad, and ther's an end. 70

Ban. Sir Iohn!

Sir Io. Neighbour Bankes, what newes?

Ban. Z'wounds, Sir Iohn, the keepers are abroad; I was hard by 'am.

Sir Io. Grasse and hay! wher's mine host Blague? 76

Blague. Here, Metropolitane. The philistines are vpon vs, be silent; let vs serue the good Duke of Norfolke. But where is Smug?

Smu. Here; a poxe on yee all, dogs; I haue kild the greatest Bucke in Brians walke. Shift for your selues, all the keepers are vp: lets meete in Enfield church porch; away, we are all taken els. [Exeunt. 80

Enter Brian, with his man, and his hound.

Bri. Raph, hearst thou any stirring? 85

Raph. I heard one speake here hard by, in the bottome. Peace, Maister, speake low; zownes, if I did not heare a bow goe off, and the Bucke bray, I neuer heard deere in my life.

Bri. When went your fellows out into their walks? 91

Ra. An hower agoe.

Bri. S'life, is there stealers abroad, and they cannot heare

Of them: where the deuill are my men to night?

Sirra, goe vp the wind towards Buckleyes lodge. 95

Ile cast about the bottome with my hound, And I will meete thee vnder Cony ocke.

Ra. I will, Sir.

Bri. How now? by the masse, my hound stayes vpon something; harken, harken, Bowman, harken, harken, there! 101

Mill. Brother, Franke Ierningham, brother Clare!

88 zownes] nounes Q 4-6 93-7 *Prosc Qq* 93
Bri. .. heare of follows 89 Q 3

Bri. Peace; thats a womans voyce! Stand!
 who's there? Stand, or Ile shoote. 105
Mill. O Lord! hold your hands, I meane no
 harme, sir.
Bri. Speake, who are you?
Mill. I am a maid, sir; who? M(aister)
 Brian?
Bri. The very same; sure, I should know
 her voyce;
Mistris Milliscent? 110
Mill. I, it is I, sir.
Bri. God for his passion! what make you
 here alone?
 I lookd for you at my lodge an hower agoe.
 What meanes your company to leaue you
 thus?
 Who brought you hither? 115
Mil. My brother, Sir, and M(aister)
 Iernningham,
 Who, hearing folks about vs in the Chase,
 Feard it had bin sir Ralph and my father,
 Who had pursude vs, thus dispersed our
 selues,
 Till they were past vs. 120
Bri. But where be they?
Mill. They be not farre off, here about the
 groue.

Enter Clare and Iernningham.
Cl. Be not afraid, man, I heard Brians
 tongue,
 Thats certain.
Ier. Call softly for your sister. 125
Cl. Milliscent!
Mill. I, brother, heere.
Bri. M(aister) Clare!
Cl. I told you it was Brian. 129
Bri. Whoes that? M(aister) Iernningham:
 you are a couple of hot-shots; does a man
 commit his wench to you, to put her to grasse
 at this time of night?
Ier. We heard a noyse about her in the
 chase, 134
 And fearing that our fathers had pursude vs,
 Seuerd our selues.
Cl. Brian, how hapd'st thou on her?
Bri. Seeking for stealers are abroad to
 night,
 My hound staid on her, and so found her out.
Cl. They were these stealers that af-
 frighted vs;
 I was hard vpon them, when they horst their
 Deere, 140
 And I perceiue they tooke me for a keeper.

Bri. Which way tooke they?
Ier. Towards Enfeild.
Bri. A plague vpon 't, thats that damned
 Priest, & Blague of the George, he that serues
 the good Duke of Norfolke. 146
A noyse within: Follow, follow, follow.
Cl. Peace, thats my fathers voyce.
Bri. Z'ownds, you suspected them, and
 now they are heere indeed.
Mill. Alas, what shall we doe? 150
Bri. If you goe to the lodge, you are
 surely taken;
 Strike downe the wood to Enfeild presently,
 And if Mouchensey come, Ile send him
 t'ye.
 Let mee alone to bussle with your father;
 I warrant you that I will keepe them play 155
 Till you haue quit the chase; away, away!
(Exeunt all but Brian.)
 Whoes there?

Enter the Knights.

Sir Rap. In the kings name, pursue the
 Rauisher!
Bri. Stand, or Ile shoote.
Sir Ar. Whoes there? 160
Bri. I am the keeper that doe charge you
 stand;
 You haue stolen my Deere.
Sir Ar. We stolne thy Deere? we do pursue
 a thiefe.
Bri. You are arrant theeues, and ye haue
 stolne my Deere. 165
Sir Rap. We are Knights; sir Arthur Clare,
 and sir Raph Iernningham.
Bri. The more your shame, that Knights
 should bee such thieues.
Sir Ar. Who, or what art thou? 170
Bri. My name is Brian, keeper of this
 walke.
Sir Ar. O Brian, a villain!
 Thou hast receiued my daughter to thy lodge.
Bri. You haue stolne the best Deere in
 my walke to night. My Deere! 175
Sir Ar. My daughter!
 Stop not my way!
Bri. What make you in my walke? you
 haue stolne the best Bucke in my walke to
 night. 180
Sir Ar. My daughter!
Bri. My Deere!
Sir Rap. Where is Mountchensey?
Bri. Wheres my Bucke?

112-20 *Prose Qq* 118 Ralph *Q6*: Arthur *Q1-5*
 134 her (= here?) *Q1-3*: vs *Q4-6* 136 hapnedst
Q2, 4-6 144 that] the *Q5, 6* 148 Z'ownds] Nowne-
 4-6 you] you haue *Q5, 6* 154 Fathers *Q6*
 155 them] him *Q3* *S. D. add. WP* 172 Sir Ar.
Q6: Sir Rap. *Q1-5*

Sir Ar. I will complaine me of thee to the King. 185

Bri. Ile compleine vnto the King you spoile his game:

Tis strange that men of your account and calling

Will offer it!

I tell you true, Sir Arthur and sir Raph,

That none but you haue onely spoild my game.

Sir Ar. I charge you, stop vs not! 191

Bri. I charge you both ye get out of my ground!

Is this a time for such as you,

Men of (your) place and of your grauity,

To be abroad a theeuing? tis a shame; 195

And, afore God, if I had shot at you,

I had serude you well enough. [Exeunt. 196

(SCENE II. Enfield Churchyard.)

Enter Banks the Miller, wet on his legs.

Ban. S'foote, heeres a darke night indeed! I thinke I haue bin in fiftene ditches betweene this and the forrest. Soft, heers Enfeilde Church: I am so wet with climbing ouer into an orchard for to steale some filberts. Well, heere Ile sit in the Church porch, and wait for the rest of my consort. 7

Enter the Sexton.

Sex. Heeres a sky as blacke as Lucifer. God blesse vs! heere was Goodman Theophilus buried; hee was the best Nutcraker that euer dwelt in Enfeild. Well, tis 9. a clock, tis time to ring curfew. Lord blesse vs, what a white thing is that in the Church porch! O Lorde, my legges are too weake for my body, my haire is too stiffe for my night-cap, my heart failes; this is the ghost of Theophilus. O Lord, it followes me! I cannot say my prayers, and one would giue me a thousand pound. Good spirit, I haue bowld and drunke and followed the hounds with you a thousand times, though I haue not the spirit now to deale with you. O Lord! 22

Enter Priest.

Prie. Grasse and hey, we are all mortall. Who's there?

Sex. We are grasse and hay indeede; I know you to bee Master Parson by your phrase.

Prie. Sexton!

Sex. I, Sir.

Prie. For mortalities sake, Whats the matter? 30

Sex. O Lord, I am a man of another element; Maister Theophilus Ghost is in the Church porch. There was a hundred Cats, all fire, dancing here euen now, and they are clombe vp to the top of the steeple; ile not into the bellfree for a world. 36

Prie. O good Salomon; I haue bin about a deede of darknes to night: O Lord, I saw fifteen spirits in the forrest, like white bulles; if I lye, I am an arrant theefe: mortalitie haunts vs—grasse and hay! the deuills at our heeles, and lets hence to the parsonage. 42

[Exeunt.

[The Miller comes out very softly.

Mill. What noise was that? tis the watch, sure; that villanous vnlucky rogue, Smug, is taine, vpon my life; and then all our villeny comes out; I heard one cry, sure. 46

Enter Host Blague.

Host. If I go steale any more veneson, I am a Paradox: s'foot, I can scarce beare the sinne of my flesh in the day, tis so heauy; if I turne not honest, and serue the good Duke of Norfolk, as true mareterraneum skinker should doe, let me neuer looke higher then the element of a Constable. 53

Mill. By the Lord, there are some watchmen; I heare them name Maister Constable; I would to God my Mill were an Eunuch, and wanted her stones, so I were hence.

Host. Who's there? 58

Mill. Tis the Constable, by this light; Ile steale hence, and if I can meete mine host Blague, ile tell him how Smug is taine, and will him to looke to himselfe. [Exit. 61

Host. What the deuill is that white thing? this same is a Church-yard, and I haue heard that ghosts and villenous goblins haue beene seene here. 66

Enter Sexton and Priest.

Prie. Grasse and hay! O, that I could coniuire! wee saw a spirite here in the Church-yard; and in the fallow field ther's the deuill with a mans body vpon his backe in a white sheet. 71

Sex. It may be a womans body, Sir Iohn.

Prie. If shee be a woman, the sheets damne her; Lord blesse vs, what a night of mortalitie is this! 75

186-97 *Prose* Q4; *corr.* WP 194 your place Q3; your place Q1, 2, 4-6; your grauity Q1, 2, 4-6; grauity Q3
Scene II. *add.* WP 1 darke] blacke Q3
Consorts Q4-6 13 a om. Q2, 3 18 a om. Q3

34 here om. Q2, 4-6 37 good Q1-1: goodman Q5, 6 42 parsonages Q1-3 45 villeny Q1-3; knauerie Q4-6 48 foot Q4-6 51 as Q1-3; as a Q4-6 54 *Prefix* Milla Q1 Lord] masse Q4-6 74 Lord om. Q4-6

Host. Priest!

Pri. Mine host!

Host. Did you not see a spirit all in white
crosse you at the stile? 79

Sex. O no, mine host; but there sate one
in the porch; I haue not breath ynough left
to blesse me from the Deuill.

Host. Whoes that?

Pri. The Sexton, almost frighted out of his
wits. Did you see Banks or Smug? 85

Host. No, they are gone to Waltham, sure:
I would faine hence; come, lets to my house:
Ile nere serue the duke of Norfolk in this
fashion againe whilst I breath. If the deuill
be amongst vs, tis time to hoist saile, and cry
roomer. Keepe together; Sexton, thou art
secret, what? lets be comfortable one to
another.

Pri. We are all mortall, mine host. 94

Host. True; and Ile serue God in the night
hereafter afore the Duke of Norfolk. [*Exeunt.*]

(ACT V.

SCENE I. *An Inn opposite the George,
Waltham.*)

*Enter Sir Arthur Clare and Sir Ralph Ierning-
ham, trussing their points as new vp.*

Sir Rap. Good morrow, gentle knight.

A happy day after your short nights rest.

Sir Ar. Ha, ha, sir Raph, stirring so soone
indeed?

Birlady, sir, rest would haue done right well;
Our riding late last night has made mee
drowsie. 5

Goe to, goe to, those dayes are gone with vs.

Sir Ra. Sir Arthur, Sir Arthur, care go
with those dayes,

Let 'am euen goe together, let 'am goe!

This time, yfaith, that wee were in our graues,
When Children leaue obedience to their
parents, 10

When theres no feare of God, no care, no
dutie.

Well, well, nay, nay, it shall not doe, it shall not;
No, Mountchensy, thou'st heare on't, thou
shalt,

Thou shalt, yfaith!

Ile hang thy Son, if there be law in England.

A mans Child raisht from a Nunry! 16

This is rare!

Well, well, ther's one gone for Frier Hilder-
sam.

Sir Ar. Nay, gentle Knight, do not vex
thus,

It will but hurt your health. 20

You cannot greeue more then I doe, but to
what end? But harke you, Sir Raph, I was
about to say somthing—it makes no matter.
But hearke you in your eare: the Frier's a
knaue; but God forgiue me, a man cannot tel
neither; s'foot, I am so out of patience, I
know not what to say. 27

Sir Ra. Ther's one went for the Frier an
hower agoe. Comes he not yet? s'foot, if
I do find knauery vnders cowle, ile tickle him,
ile firke him. Here, here, hee's here, hee's
here. Good morrow, Frier; good morrow,
gentle Frier. 33

Enter Hildersham.

Sir Ar. Good morrow, father Hildersham,
good morrow.

Hild. Good morrow, reuerend Knights, vnto
you both.

Sir Ar. Father, how now? you heare how
matters go;

I am vndone, my Childe is cast away.

You did your best, at least I thinke the best;
But we are all crost; flatly, all is dasht.

Hild. Alas, good knights, how might the
matter be? 40

Let mee vnderstand your greefe for Charity.

Sir Ar. Who does not vnderstand my
griefes? Alas, alas!

And yet yee do not! Will the Church permit
A Nun in approbation of her habit

To be rauished? 45

Hild. A holy woman, benedicite!

Now God forfend that any should presume
To touch the sister of a holy house.

Sir Ar. Ihesus deliuer mee!

Sir Ra. Why, Millisent, the daughter of
this Knight 50

Is out of Chesson taken the last night.

Hild. Was that faire maiden late become
a Nun?

Sir Ra. Was she, quotha? Knauery,
knauery, knauery; I smell it, I smell it, yfaith;
is the wind in that dore? is it euen so? doost
thou aske me that now? 56

Hild. It is the first time that I ere heard
of it.

Sir Ar. That's very strange.

Sir Ra. Why, tell me, Frier, tell mee; thou
art counted a holy man; doe not play the
hypocrite with me, nor beare with mee. I

80 Sex. Q 4-6 : Priest Q 1-3 Act V. Scene I.
W.P. S. D. Arthur. . . Ralph Q 6 : Raph. . . Arthur
Q 1-5 12 nay, nay Q 1, 3 : nay Q 2. 4-6 14-15
One line Qq 17-18 One line Qq

29 foote Q 4-6 42 grieif Q 3-6 46-8 Prose
Q 1-5 51 the Q 1, 3 : this Q 2. 4-6 61 nor! now
conj. Col.

cannot dissemble: did I ought but by thy own consent? by thy allowance? nay, further, by thy warrant?

Hild. Why, Reuerend knight— 65

Sir Ra. Vnreuerend Frier—

Hild. Nay, then giue me leaue, sir, to depart in quiet; I had hopd you had sent for mee to some other end.

Sir Ar. Nay, stay, good Frier; if any thing hath hapd 70

About this matter in thy loue to vs,
That thy strickt order cannot iustifie,
Admit it be so, we will couer it.

Take no care, man:

Disclayme not yet thy counsell and aduise, 75
The wisest man that is may be orereacht.

Hild. Sir Arthur, by my order and my faith,
I know not what you meane.

Sir Ra. By your order and your faith?

This is most strange of all: Why, tell mee,
Frier, 80

Are not you Confessor to my Son Francke?

Hild. Yes, that I am.

Sir Ra. And did not this good knight here
and my selfe

Confesse with you, being his ghostly Father,
To deale with him about th' unbanded
marriage 85

Betwix him and that faire young Millisent?

Hild. I neuer heard of any match intended.

Sir Ar. Did not we breake our minds that
very time,

That our deuice of making her a Nun

Was but a colour and a very plotte 90

To put by young Mountchensey? Ist not true?

Hild. The more I striue to know what you
should meane,

The lesse I vnderstand you.

Sir Rap. Did not you tell vs still how Peter
Fabell

At length would crosse vs, if we tooke not heed?

Hild. I haue heard of one that is a great
magician, 96

But hees about the Vniuersity.

Sir Rap. Did not you send your nouice
Benedic

To perswade the girle to leaue Mountchenseys
loue,

To crosse that Peter Fabell in his art, 100
And to that purpose made him visitor?

Hild. I neuer sent my nouice from the
house,

Nor haue we made our visitation yet.

Sir Ar. Neuer sent him? Nay, did he not
goe?

And did not I direct him to the house, 105
And conferre with him by the way? and did he
not

Tell me what charge he had receiued from you,
Word by word, as I requested at your hands?

Hild. That you shall know; hee came along
with me,

And staves without. Come hither, Benedic!

Enter Benedic.

Yong Benedic, were you ere sent by me 111
To Chesson Nunnery for a visitor?

Ben. Neuer, sir, truely.

Sir Rap. Stranger then all the rest!

Sir Ar. Did not I direct you to the house?
Confer with you

From Waltham Abby vnto Chesson wall? 115

Ben. I neuer saw you, sir, before this
hower.

Sir Raph. The deuill thou didst not! Hoe,
Chamberlen!

(Enter Chamberlaine.)

Chamb. Anon, anon.

Sir Ra. Call mine host Blague hither!

Cham. I will send one ouer to see if he be
vp; I thinke he bee scarce stirring yet. 121

Sir Rap. Why, knaue, didst thou not tell
me an hower ago, mine host was vp?

Cham. I, sir, my Master's vp.

Sir Ra. You knaue, is a vp, and is a not
vp? Dost thou mocke mee? 126

Cham. I, sir, my M. is vp; but I thinke
M. Blague indeed be not stirring.

Sir Rap. Why, who's thy Master? is not
the Master of the house thy Master? 130

Cham. Yes, sir; but M. Blague dwells ouer
the way.

Sir Ar. Is not this the George? Before God,
theres some villany in this. 134

Cham. Sfoote, our signes remooud; this is
strange! *(Exeunt.)*

(SCENE II. The George Inn.)

Enter Blague, trussing his points.

Bla. Chamberlen, speake vp to the new
lodgings, bid Nell looke well to the bakt
meats.

104-12 *Prose Q 1-5*

113-14 *Prefaces Sir Rap., Sir*

Ar. transposed Q 1-5 114-15 *Three lines Qq, dir. after*

house, Abby: corr. WP *S. D. add. Q 4* 120

Cham. Q 4, etc.: Cla. Q 1-3 one] once *Q 2* ouer]

ouer sir *Q 4-6* 133 God] Ioue *Q 4-6* 135 Foote

Q 4-6 *Exeunt add. WP* *Scene II. WP* 1-6 *Verse*

Qq: corr. WP 1 speake] speed *Haz.* 3 meat *Q 6*

73 be] to be *Q 5, 6* 75 thy *Q 1-3: my Q 4-6*

79-81 *Two lines Qq: corr. WP* 79 *Sir Ra. Q 4-6:*

Sir Ar. Q 1-3 85 unbanded] intended *WP* 89

of *Q 1, 3: in Q 2, 4-6* 94-5 *Prose Qq: corr. WP*

102 the *Q 1, 3: my Q 2, 4-6*

(Enter Sir Arthur and Sir Raph.)

How now, my old Ienerts bauke my house, my castle? lie in Waltham all night, and not vnder the Canopie of your host Blagues house?

Sir Ar. Mine host, mine host, we lay all night at the George in Waltham; but whether the George be your fee-simple or no, tis a doubtfull question: looke vpon your signe. 10

Host. Body of Saint George, this is mine ouerthwart neighbour hath done this to seduce my blind customers. He tickle his Catastrophe for this; if I doe not indite him at next assises for Burglary, let me die of the yellowes; for I see tis no boote in these dayes to serue the good Duke of Norfolk. The villanous world is turnd manger; one lade deceiues another, and your Ostler playes his part commonly for the fourth share. Hauē wee Comedies in hand, you whoreson, villanous male London lecher?

Sir Ar. Mine host, we haue had the moylingst night of it that euer we had in our liues. 25

Host. Ist certaine?

Sir Rap. We haue bin in the Forrest all night almost.

Host. S'foot, how did I misse you? hart, I was a stealing a Bucke there. 30

Sir Ar. A plague on you; we were stayed for you.

Host. Were you, my noble Romanes? Why, you shall share; the venison is a footing. *Sine Cerere & Baccho friget Venus*; That is, theres a good breakfast provided for a marriage that in my house this morning. 37

Sir Ar. A marriage, mine host?

Host. A coniunction copulatiue; a gallant match betwene your daughter and M. Raymond Mountchensey, yong Iuuentus. 41

Sir Ar. How?

Host. Tis firme, tis done. Weele shew you a president i'th ciuill law fort.

Sir Rap. How? married? 45

Host. Leaue trickes and admiration. Theres a cleanly paire of sheetes in the bed in Orchard chamber, and they shall lie there. What? He doe it; He serue the good Duke of Norfolk. 50

Sir Ar. Thou shalt repent this, Blague.

Sir Rap. If any law in England will make thee smart for this, expect it with all severity.

S. D. add. WP 4 jennet's back *Haz.* bauke
WP: banke *Qq* house *St.* horse *Qq* 10 doubt-
 full om. *Q* 2, 4-6 13-14 seduce. for this om.
Q 5, 6 29 Foote *Q* 4-6 30 a stealing *Q* 1-3
 stealing of *Q* 4-6 39-72 om. *Walker* 47-8 bed in
Q 1: bed on the *Q* 2: bed in the *Q* 3-6 49 I serue
Q 4-6

Host. I renounce your defiance; if you parle so roughly, He barracado my gates against you. Stand faire, bully; Priest, come off from the rereward! What can you say now? Twas done in my house; I haue shelter i'th Court for't. D'yee see yon bay window? I serue the good duke of Norfolk, & tis his lodging. Storm, I care not, seruing the good Duke of Norfolk: thou art an actor in this, and thou shalt carry fire in thy face eternally.

Enter Smug, Mountchensey, Harry Clare, and Milliscent.

Smug. Fire, s'blood, theres no fire in England like your Trinidado sacke. Is any man heere humorous? We stole the venison, and weele iustifie it: say you now! 67

Host. In good sooth, Smug, theres more sacke on the fire, Smug.

Smu. I do not take any exceptions against your sacke; but if youle lend mee a picke staffe, ile cudgle them all hence, by this hand.

Host. I say thou shalt in to the Celler. 73

Sm. S'foot, mine Host, shalls not grapple? Pray, pray you; I could fight now for all the world like a Cockatrices ege; shalls not serue the Duke of Norfolk? [Exit.]

Host. In, skipper, in!

Sir Arth. Sirra, hath young Mountchensey married your sister? 80

Ha. Cla. Tis Certaine, Sir; her's the priest that coupled them, the parties ioyned, and the honest witness that cride Amen.

Mount. Sir Arthur Clare, my new created Father, I beseech you, heare mee. 85

Sir Ar. Sir, Sir, you are a foolish boy; you haue done that you cannot answer; I dare be bould to ceaze her from you; for shee's a profest Nun.

Mill. With pardon, sir, that name is quite vndone; 90

This true-loue knot cancelles both maid and Nun.

When first you told me I should act that part, How cold and bloody it crept ore my hart!

To Chesson with a smiling brow I went; But yet, deere sir, it was to this intent, 95

That my sweete Raymond might find better meanes

To steale me thence. In breefe, disguised he came,

Like Nouice to old father Hildersham;
 His tutor here did act that cunning part,

59 D'yee *Q* 3: Dee *Q* 1: Doe *Q* 2: Doe you *Q* 4-6
 von *Q* 3-6: your *Q* 1, 2 64 s'blood nouns *Q* 4-6
 75 Pray] Pray you *Q* 3 84-5 Verse *WP* 88 her]
 on her *Q* 5, 6

And in our loue hath ioynd much wit to art.

Cla. Is't euen so? 101

Mill. With pardon therefore wee intreat
your smiles;

Loue thwarted turnes itselfe to thousand wiles.

Cla. Young Maister Ierningham, were you
an actor

In your owne loutes abuse?

Ier. My thoughts, good sir,
Did labour seriously vnto this end, 106

To wrong my selfe, ere ide abuse my friend.

Host. He speakes like a Batchelor of
musicke, all in Numbers. Knights, if I had
knowne you would haue let this couy of
Partridges sit thus long vpon their knees vnder
my signe post, I would haue spred my dore with
old Couerlids.

Sir Ar. Well, sir, for this your signe was
remoued, was it? 115

Host. Faith, wee followed the directions
of the deuill, Master Peter Fabell; and Smug,
Lord blesse vs, could neuer stand vpright since.

Sir Ar. You, sir, twas you was his minister
that married them? 120

Sir Io. Sir, to proue my selfe an honest
man, being that I was last night in the
forrest stealing Venison — now, sir, to haue
you stand my friend, if that matter should bee
calld in question, I married your daughter to
this worthy gentleman. 126

Sir Ar. I may chauce to requite you, and
make your necke crack for't.

Sir Io. If you doe, I am as resolute as my
Neighbour vicar of Waltham Abby; a hem,
Grasse and hay, wee are all mortall; lets liue
till we be hangd, mine host, and be merry, and
theres an end. 133

(Enter Fabell.)

Fab. Now, knights, I enter; now my part
begins.

To end this difference, know, at first I knew
What you intended, ere your loue tooke
flight 136

From old Mountchenssey; you, sir Arthur Clare,
Were minded to haue married this sweete
beauty

To yong Franke Ierningham; to crosse which
match,

I vsde some pretty sleights; but I protest 140

Such as but sate vpon the skirts of Art;

No coniations, nor such weighty spells

As tie the soule to their performancy.

Theese for his loue, who once was my deere
puple,

Haue I effected. Now, mee thinks, tis strange

That you, being old in wisdom, should thus
knit 146

Your forehead on this match, since reason
failes;

No law can curbe the louers rash attempt;

Yeares, in resisting this, are sadly spent.

Smile, then, vpon your daughter and kind
sonne, 150

And let our toyle to future ages proue,

The deuill of Edmonton did good in Loue.

Sir Ar. Well, tis in vaine to crosse the
prouidence:

Deere Sonne, I take thee vp into my hart;

Rise, daughter; this is a kind fathers part. 155

Host. Why, Sir Iohn, send for Spindles
noyse presently: Ha, ert be night, Ile serue
the good Duke of Norfolk.

Pri. Grasse and hay, mine Host, lets liue
till we die, and be merry, and thers an end. 160

Sir Ar. What, is breakfast ready, mine
Host?

Host. Tis, my little Hebrew.

Sir Ar. Sirra, ride strait to Chesson Nunry,
Fetch thence my Lady; the house, I know, 165
By this time misses their yong votary.

Come, knights, lets in!

Bil. I will to horse presentlye, sir. — A
plague a my Lady, I shall misse a good break-
fast. Smug, how chauce you cut so plaguely
behind, Smug? 171

Smu. Stand away; ile founder you else.

Bil. Farewell, Smug, thou art in another
element.

Smu. I will be by and by; I will be Saint
George againe. 176

Sir Ar. Take heed the fellow do not hurt
himselfe.

Sir Rap. Did we not last night find two
S. Georges here?

Fab. Yes, Knights, this martialist was one
of them.

Cla. Then thus conclude your night of
merriment! [Exeunt Omnes.

FINIS.

104-5 *Prose* Q 1-5 113 *old om.* Q 4-6 124 [that]
the Q 4-6 125 [your] you Q 1 129-33 *Verse* Qq
S. D. om. Q 1-3 Fabell Q 6: Fabian Q 4, 5

156 *John Haz.*: George Qq ? St. George: cf. footnote
to 175 175 Saint Q 4, etc.: Sir Q 1-8 180 Y. Cla.
WP (wrong)

A Pleasant Commodie,

of faire *Emeth*. Millers daughter
of *Marshelter* : With the loue of
William the Conqueror:

As it was sundrietimes publicuely acted in the
honourable citie of London by the right honourable
the Lord Strange his seruants.



Imprinted at London for T.N. and I VV.
and are to be soide in S. Dunstones Church-
yarde in Fleete-streete.

Q 1 = undated Quarto
Q 2 = Quarto of 1631
Chet. = Chetwood, 1750
T = Tyrrell, 1851
D = Delius, 1874
Simp. = Simpson, 1878
WP = Warnke and Proescholdt, 1883
pr. ed. = present editor

A PLEASANT COMMODIE OF
FAIRE EM
 THE MILLERS DAUGHTER OF MANCHESTER
 WITH THE LOVE OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROVR

(Dramatis Personae.

WILLIAM the Conqueror.
ZWENO, King of Denmark.
Duke DIROT.
Marquis of Lubeck.
MOUNTNEY.
MANVILLE.
ROZILIO.
DIMARCH.
Danish Ambassador.
The Miller of Manchester.

TROTTER, his Man.
Citizen of Chester.

BLANCH, Princess of Denmark.
MARIANA, Princess of Suethia.
Fair EM, the Miller's Daughter.
ELINER, the Citizen's Daughter.
English and Danish Nobles.
Soldiers, Countrymen, and Attendants.)¹

Actus Primus. Scaena Prima.
(Windsor. A State Apartment.)

Enter William the Conqueror; Marques Lubeck, with a picture; Mountney; Manuile; Valingford; and Duke Dirot.

Marques. What meanes faire Britaines mighty Conqueror
 So suddenly to cast away his staffe,
 And all in passion to forsake the tylt?

D. Dirot. My Lord, this triumph we solemnise here
 Is of meere loue to your increasing ioyes, 5
 Only expecting cheerefull looks for all;
 What sudden pangs than moues your maiestie
 To dimme the brightnes of the day with frownes?

W. Conqueror. Ah, good my Lords, misconster not the cause;
 At least, suspect not my displeased browes: 10
 I amorously do beare to your intent,
 For thanks and all that you can wish I yeeld.
 But that which makes me blush and shame to tell

Is cause why thus I turne my conquering eyes
 To cowardes lookes and beaten fantasies. 15
Mountney. Since wee are giltlesse, wee the lesse dismay

To see this sudden change possesse your cheere,
 For if it issue from your owne conceits
 Bred by suggestion of some enuious thoughts,
 Your highnes wisdoms may suppress it straight. 20

Yet tell vs, good my Lord, what thought it is
 That thus bereaues you of your late content,
 That in aduise we may assist your grace,
 Or bend our forces to reuiue your spirits.

W. Con. Ah, Marques Lubeck, in thy power it lyes 25

To rid my bosome of these thraled dumps:
 And therefore, good my Lords, forbear a while

That we may parley of these priuate cares,
 Whose strength subdues me more than all the world.

Valingford. We goe and wishe thee priuate conference 30

Publicke affectes in this accustomed peace.

[*Exit all but William and the Marques.*

William. Now, Marques, must a Conquerer at armes

Disclose himselfe thrald to vnarmed thoughts,
 And, threatned of a shaddowe, yeeld to lust.

No sooner had my sparkeling eyes beheld 35
 The flames of beautie blasing on this peece,
 But soderly a sence of myracle,

Imagined on thy louely Maistres face,
 Made me abandon bodily regarde, 39

And cast all pleasures on my woonded soule:
 Then, gentle Marques, tell me what she is,

That thus thou honourest on thy warlike shield;
 And if thy loue and interest be such

As iustly may giue place to myne,
 That if it be, my soule with honors wings 45

May fly into the bosome of my deere;

¹ *Add. Chet.* S. D. Windsor. . Apartment add.
pr. ed. 15 coward D

30 thee (=the) Qq: this D: the conj. Simp. 31
 effects D

Yf not, close them, and stoope into my grauel

Marques. Yf this be all, renowned Conqueror,

Advance your drooping spirites, and reuiue 49

The wonted courage of your Conquering minde;

For this faire picture painted on my shield

Is the true counterfeite of louelie Blaunch,

Princes and daughter to the King of Danes,

Whose beautie and excesse of ornaments

Deserues another manner of defence, 55

Pompe and high person to attend her state

Then Marques Lubeck any way presents.

Therefore her vertues I resigne to thee,

Alreadie shrinde in thy religious brest,

To be aduanced and honoured to the full; 60

Nor beare I this an argument of loue,

But to renoune faire Blaunch, my Soueraignes

child

In euerie place where I by armes may do it.

William. Ah, Marques, thy wordes bring

heauen vnto my soule,

And had I heauen to giue for thy reward, 65

Thou shouldst be thrond in no vnworthie

place.

But let my vttermost wealth suffice thy worth,

Which here I vowe; and to aspire the blisse

That hangs on quicke atchiuement of my loue,

Thy selfe and I will traueile in disguise, 70

To bring this Ladie to our Brittain Court.

Marques. Let William but bethinke what

may auayle,

And let me die if I denie my ayde.

William. Then thus: The Duke Dirot, and

Therle Dima(r)ch,

Will I leaue substitutes to rule my Realme, 75

While mightie loue forbids my being here;

And in the name of Sir Robert of Windsor

Will goe with thee vnto the Danish Court.

Keepe Williams secretes, Marques, if thou

loue him.

Bright Blaunch, I come! sweete fortune,

fauour me, 80

And I will laud thy name eternally.

[*Exeunt.*

(SCENE II.)

(*Manchester. The Interior of a Mill.*)

Enter the Miller and Em, his daughter.

Miller. Come, daughter, we must learne to

shake of pomp,

To leaue the state that earst beseemd a Knight

And gentleman of no meane discent,

To vndertake this homelie millers trade:

Thus must we maske to saue our wretched

liues, 5

74 th'erle Demarch WP Scene II. add. T S. D.

Manchester. . Mill add. pr. ed. 3 no] not a conj. Simp.

Threatned by Conquest of this haplesse Yle,

Whose sad inuasions by the Conqueror

Haue made a number such as we subiect

Their gentle neckes vnto their stubborn yoke

Of drudging labour and base pesantie. 10

Sir Thomas Godard now old Goddard is,

Goddard the miller of faire Manchester.

Why should not I content me with this state,

As good Sir Edmund Trofferd did the flaile?

And thou, sweete Em, must stoope to high

estate 15

To ioyne with mine that thus we may protect

Our harmles liues, which, ledd in greater port,

Would be an enuious obiect to our foes,

That seeke to roote all Brittaines Gentry

From bearing countenance against their

tyrannie. 20

Em. Good Father, let my full resolued

thoughts

With settled patiens to support this chauce

Be some poore comfort to your aged soule;

For therein restes the height of my estate,

That you are pleased with this deiection, 25

And that all toyles my hands may vndertake

May serue to worke your worthines content.

Miller. Thanks, my deere Daughter.

These thy plesant words

Transferr my soule into a second heauen:

And in thy settled minde my ioyes consist, 30

My state reuyued, and I in former plight.

Although our outward pomp be thus abased,

And thralde to drudging, staylesse of the

world,

Let vs retaine those honorable mindes

That lately gouerned our superior state, 35

Wherein true gentrie is the only meane

That makes vs differ from base millers borne.

Though we expect no knightly delicates,

Nor thirst in soule for former soueraintie,

Yet may our myndes as highly scorne to stoope

To base desires of vulgars worldlynes, 41

As if we were in our presedent way.

And, lovely daughter, since thy youthfull

yeares

Must needes admit as yong affections,

And that sweete loue vnpartial perceiues 45

Her daintie subiects through euery part,

In chiefe receiue these lessons from my lippes,

The true discoverers of a Virgins due,

Now requisite, now that I know thy mynde

Somthing enclynde to fauour Manuils sute, 50

A gentleman, thy Louer in protest;

And that thou maist not be by loue deceiued,

But trye his meaning fit for thy desert,

9 their] the D 15 to high Qq: from high T: thy

high D: to like Simp. 35 Thar Q 1 41 vulgar

Chet. 44 as] of Chet.

In pursuite of all amorous desires,
 Regard thine honour. Let not vehement
 sighes,

55

Nor earnest vowes importing feruent loue,
 Render thee subiect to the wrath of lust:
 For that, transformed to form of sweete delight,
 Will bring thy bodie and thy soule to shame.
 Chaste thoughts and modest conuersations, 60
 Of prooffe to keepe out all inchaunting vowes,
 Vaine sighes, forst teares, and pittifull aspectes,
 Are they that make deformed Ladies faire,
 Poore ritch: and such intycing men,
 That seeke of all but onely present grace, 65
 Shall in perseuerance of a Virgins due
 Prefer the most refusers to the choyce
 Of such a soule as yeelded what they thought.
 But hoe: where is Trotter? 69

[Here enters Trotter, the Millers man,
 to them: And they within call to him
 for their gryste.

Trotter. Wheres Trotter? why, Trotter is
 here. Yfaith, you and your daughter go vp
 and downe weeping and wamenting, and
 keeping of a wamentation, as who should saye,
 the Mill would go with your wamenting.

Miller. How now, Trotter? why com-
 plainest thou so? 76

Trotter. Why, yonder is a company of yong
 men and maydes, keepe such a styr for their
 grist, that they would haue it before my stones
 be readie to grinde it. But, yfaith, I would
 I coulde breake winde enough backward: you
 should not tarrie for your gryst, I warrant you.

Miller. Content thee, Trotter, I will go
 pacifie them. 84

Trotter. Iwis you will when I cannot.
 Why, looke, you haue a Mill—Why, whats
 your Mill without mee? Or rather, Mistres,
 what were I without you?

[Here he taketh Em about the neck.

Em. Nay, Trotter, if you fall achyding,
 I will giue you ouer. 90

Trotter. I chyde you, dame, to amend you.
 You are too fyne to be a Millers daughter; for
 if you should but stoope to take vp the tole dish,
 you will haue the crampe in your finger at least
 ten weekes after. 95

Miller. Ah, well said, Trotter; teach her to
 plaie the good huswife, and thou shalt haue
 her to thy wife, if thou canst get her good will.

Trotter. Ah, words wherein I see Matrimonie

58 form of conj. Simp.: former Qq 64 ritch pr. ed.:
 wretch Qq, etc.: ones rich conj. Simp. 68 thought]
 sought conj. Simp. 70-4 Printed as verse in Qq, the
 lines ending here, weeping, wamentation, wamenting
 77-82 Verse in Q1: so lines 85-8, 91-5, 99-107 in Qq
 88 S. D. printed on margin and partly missing Qq

come loaden with kisses to salute me! Now
 let me alone to pick the Mill, to fill the hopper,
 to take the tole, to mend the sayles, yea, and
 to make the mill to goe with the verie force of
 my loue. 104

[Here they must call for their gryst within.

Trotter. I come, I come; yfaith, now you
 shall haue your gryst, or else Trotter will trot
 and amble himselfe to death.

[They call him againe. Exit.

(SCENE III.

The Danish Court.)

Enter king of Denmarke, with some attendants,
 Blanch his daughter, Mariana, Marques
 Lubeck, William disguised.

King of Denmarke. Lord Marques Lubecke,
 welcome home.

Welcome, braue Knight, vnto the Denmarke
 King,

For Williams sake, the noble Norman Duke,
 So famous for his fortunes and successe,
 That graceth him with name of Conqueror: 5
 Right double welcome must thou be to vs.

Rob. Windsor. And to my Lord the king
 shall I recount

Your graces courteous entertainment,
 That for his sake vouchsafe to honor me,
 A simple Knight attendant on his grace. 10

King Den. But saie, Sir Knight, what may
 I call your name?

Robert Windsor. Robert Windsor, and like
 your Maiestie.

King Den. I tell thee, Robert, I so admire
 the man

As that I count it haynous guilt in him
 That honors not Duke William with his heart.
 Blanch, bid this straunger welcome, good my
 gyrlie. 16

Blanch. Sir,
 Should I neglect your highnes charge herein,
 It might be thought of base discourtesie.

Welcome, Sir Knight, to Denmarke, hartelie.

Ro. Winds. Thanks, gentle Ladie. Lord
 Marques, what is shee? 21

Lubeck. That same is Blanch, daughter to
 the King,

The substance of the shadow that you saw.

Rob. Windsor. May this be shee, for whome
 I crost the Seas?

I am ashamde to think I was so fond. 25

In whome thers nothing that contents my mynd:
 Ill head, worse featurde, vncomly, nothing
 courtly;

Scene III. etc. add. T 17-18 One line Qq

Swart and ill fauoured, a Colliers sanguin
skinne.

I neuer sawe a harder fauourd slut.
Loue her? for what? I can no whit abide
her. 30

King of Denmark. Mariana, I haue this day
receiued letters

From *Swethia*, that lets me vnderstand
Your raunsome is collecting there with speede,
And shortly shalbe hither sent to vs.

Mariana. Not that I finde occasion of
mislike 35

My entertainment in your graces court,
But that I long to see my natieue home—

King Den. And reason haue you, Madam,
for the same.

Lord *Marques*, I commit vnto your charge
The entertainment of Sir *Robert* here; 40

Let him remaine with you within the Court,
In solace and disport to spend the time.

Robert Wind. I thank your highnes, whose
bounden I remaine.

[*Exit king of Denmarke.*]

Blanch speaketh this secretly at one end of
the stage. Vnhappie *Blanch*, what strange
effects are these 44

That workes within my thoughts confusedly?
That still, me thinks, affection drawes me on,
To take, to like, nay more, to loue this Knight?

Robert Wind. A modest countenance; no
heaueie sullen looke;

Not verie fayer, but richly deckt with fauour;
A sweete face, an exceding daintie hand; 50
A bodie were it framed of wax

By all the cunning artists of the world,
It could not better be proportioned.

Lubeck. How now, Sir *Robert*? in a studie,
man?

Here is no tyme for contemplation. 55

Robert Windsor. My Lord, there is a certaine
odd conceite,

Which on the sudden greatly troubles me.

Lubeck. How like you *Blaunch*? I partly
do perceiue

The little boy hath played the wagg with you.

Sir *Robert*. The more I looke the more I
loue to looke. 60

Who says that Mariana is not faire?

He gage my gauntlet against the enuious
man

That dares auowe there liueth her compare.

Lubeck. Sir *Robert*, you mistake your coun-
terfeit.

This is the Ladie which you came to see. 65

Sir *Robert*. Yea, my Lord: Shee is coun-
terfait in deede,

35 to mislike 43 highnes Q 1 S. D. after 42 Q q

For there is the substance that best contents
me.

Lubeck. That is my loue. Sir *Robert*, you
do wrong me.

Robert. The better for you, sir, she is your
Loue—

As for the wrong, I see not how it growes. 70

Lubeck. In seeking that which is anothers
right.

Robert. As who should saie your loue were
priuileged,

That none might lookevpon her but your selfe.

Lubeck. These iarres becomes not our
familiaritie,

Nor will I stand on termes to moue your
patience. 75

Robert. Why, my Lord, am
Not I of flesh and bloud as well as you?

Then giue me leaue to loue as well as you.

Lubeck. To Loue, Sir *Robert*? but whome?
not she I Loue?

Nor stands it with the honor of my state 80
To brooke corriuals with me in my loue.

Robert. So, Sir, we are thorough for that
L(ady).

Ladies, farewell. Lord *Marques*, will you go?
I will finde a time to speake with her, I trowe.

Lubeck. With all my heart. Come, Ladies,
wil you walk? [Exit.

(SCENE IV.

The English Court.)

Enter Manuile alone, disguised.

Manuile. Ah, *Em*! the subiect of my rest-
lesse thoughts,

The Anuyle whereupon my heart doth be
Framing thy state to thy desert—

Full yll this life becomes thy heauenly looke,
Wherein sweete loue and vertue sits enthroned.

Bad world, where riches is esteemd aboue
them both, 6

In whose base eyes nought else is bountifull!

A Millers daughter, sayes the multitude,
Should not be loued of a Gentleman.

But let them breath their soules into the ayre,
Yet will I still affect thee as my selfe, 11

So thou be constant in thy plighted vowe.
But here comes one—I wil listen to his talke.

[*Manuile staies, hiding himselfe.*]

[*Enter Valingford at another dore, disguised.*]

Valingford. Goe, *William Conqueror*, and
seeke thy loue.

67 best contents me] contents me best WP 76-7
One line Qq Scene IV. etc. add. T 13 S. D. in-
complete in Q 1 because printed too near the margin of the
page: Copy in Bodl. contains only Man . . hidin . . selfe

Seeke thou a mynion in a forren land, 15
Whilest I drawe back and court my loue at home.

The millers daughter of faire Manchester
Hath bound my feete to this delightsome soyle,

And from her eyes do dart such golden beames

That holdes my harte in her subiection. 20
Manuile. He ruminates on my beloued choyce:

God graunt he come not to preuent my hope.
But heres another, him yle listen to.

[Enter Mountney, disguised, at another dore.

L. Mountney. Nature vniust, in vtterance of thy arte,

To grace a pesant with a Princes fame! 25
Pesant am I, so to misterme my loue:

Although a millers daughter by her birth,
Yet may her beautie and her vertues well suffice

To hyde the blemish of her birth in hell,
Where neither enuious eyes nor thought can perce, 30

But endlesse darknesse euer smother it.

Goe, *William Conqueror*, and seeke thy loue,
Whilest I drawe back and court mine owne the while,

Decking her bodie with such costly robes
As may become her beauties worthynes; 35

That so thy labors may be laughed to scorne,
And she thou seekest in forraine regions

Be darkened and eclipt when she arriues
By one that I haue chosen neerer home.

Manuile. What! comes he to, to intercept my loue? 40

Then hye thee *Manuile* to forestall such foes.

[Exit *Manuile*.

Mountney. What now, Lord *Valingford*, are you behind?

The king had chosen you to goe with him.

Valingford. So chose he you, therefore I marueile much

That both of vs should linger in this sort. 45
What may the king imagine of our staye?

Mountney. The king may iustly think we are to blame:

But I imagined I might well be spared,
And that no other man had borne my mind.

Valingford. The like did I: in frendship then resolute 50

What is the cause of your vnlookt for stay?

Mountney. Lord *Valingford*, I tell thee as a friend,

Loue is the cause why I haue stayed behind.

Valingford. Loue, my Lord? of whome?

Mountney. Em, the millers daughter of Manchester. 55

Valingford. But may this be?

Mountney. Why not, my Lord? I hope full well you know

That loue respectes no difference of state,
So beautie serue to stirr affection.

Valingford. But this it is that makes me wonder most: 60

That you and I should be of one conseite
In such a straunge vnlikly passion.

Mountney. But is that true? My Lord, I hope you do but iest.

Valingford. I would I did; then were my grieffe the lesse.

Mountney. Nay, neuer grieue; for if the cause be such. 65

To ioine our thoughts in such a Simpathy,
All enuie set asyde, let vs agree

To yeeld to eythers fortune in this choyce.

Valingford. Content, say I: and what so ere befall, 69

Shake hands, my Lord, and fortune thriue at all. [Exeunt.

(ACT II.

SCENE I. Manchester. The Mill.)

Enter Em and Trotter, the Millers man, with a kerchiefe on his head, and an Vrinall in his hand.

Em. Trotter, where haue you beene?

Trotter. Where haue I bene? why, what signifies this?

Em. A kerchiefe, doth it not?

Trotter. What call you this, I praye? 5

Em. I saie it is an Vrinall.

Trotter. Then this is mystically to giue you to vnderstand, I haue beene at the Phismicaries house.

Em. How long hast thou beene sicke? 10

Trotter. Yfaith, euen as long as I haue not beene halfe well, and that hath beene a long time.

Em. A loytering time, I rather imagine.

Trot. It may be so: but the Phismicary tels me that you can help me. 16

Em. Why, any thing I can do for recouerie of thy health be right well assured of.

Trot. Then giue me your hand.

Em. To what end? 20

Trotter. That the ending of an old indenture is the beginning of a new bargaine.

Em. What bargaine?

55 Of Em WP 70 o'er all conj. Simp. Act II.
Scene I. P: Scene V. T

Trot. That you promised to do any thing to
reouer my helth. 25

Em. On that condition I giue thee my
hand.

Trot. Ah, sweete *Em*!

[*Here he offers to kisse her.*]

Em. How now, *Trotter*! your maisters
daughter? 30

Trot. Yfaith, I aime at the fairest.

Ah, *Em*, sweet *Em*!

Fresh as the flowre,

That hath poure

To wound my harte,

And ease my smart,

Of me, poore theefe,

In prison bounde—

Em. So all your ryme

Lies on the grounde.

But what meanes this?

Trot. Ah, marke the deuise—

For thee, my loue,

Full sicke I was,

In hazard of my life.

Thy promise was

To make me whole,

And for to be my wife.

Let me inioye

My loue, my deere,

And thou possesse

Thy *Trotter* here.

Em. But I meant no such matter.

Trot. Yes, woos, but you did. Ile goe to
our Parson, Sir John, and he shall mumble vp
the marriage out of hand. 56

Em. But here comes one that will forbid
the Banes. [*Here enters Manuile to them.*]

Trotter. Ah, Sir, you come too late.

Manuile. What remedie, *Trotter*? 60

Em. Goe, *Trotter*, my father calles.

Trotter. Would you haue me goe in, and
leauie you two here?

Em. Why, darest thou not trust me?

Trotter. Yes, faith, euen as long as I see
you. 66

Em. Goe thy waies, I praye thee hartely.

Trotter. That same word (*hartely*) is of
great force. I will goe. But I praye, sir,
beware you come not too neere the wench. 70

[*Exit Trotter.*]

Manuile. I am greatly beholding to you.
Ah, Maistres, sometime I might haue said, my
loue,

But time and fortune hath bereued me of that,

And I, an abieit in those gracious eyes,
That with remorse earst sawe into my grieffe,
May sit and sigh the sorowes of my heart. 76

Em. In deede my *Manuile* hath some cause
to doubt,

When such a Swaine is riually in his loue!

Manuile. Ah, *Em*, were he the man that
causeth this mistrust,

I should esteeme of thee as at the first. 80

Em. But is my loue in earnest all this
while?

Manuile. Beleeue me, *Em*, it is not time to
iest,

When others ioyes, what lately I possest.

Em. If touching loue my *Manuile* charge
me thus,

Vnkindly must I take it at his handes, 85
For that my conscience cleeres me of offence.

Manuile. Ah, impudent and shamelesse in
thy ill,

That with thy cunning and defraudfull tounge
Seekes to delude the honest meaning minde!

Was neuer heard in *Manchester* before 90

Of truer loue then hath bene betwixte vs
twaine:

And for my parte how I haue hazarded

Displeasure of my father and my freindes,

Thy selfe can witnes. Yet notwithstanding
this, 94

Two gentlemen attending on *Duke William*,
Mountney and *Valingford*, as I heard them
named,

Of times resort to see and to be seene

Walking the streete fast by thy fathers dore,

Whose glauncing eyes vp to the windowes cast

Giues testies of their Maisters amorous hart.

This, *Em*, is noted and too much talked on,

Some see it without mistrust of ill— 102

Others there are that, scorning, grynne thereat,

And saith, 'There goes the millers daughters
woosers'.

Ah me, whome chiefly and most of all it doth
concerne, 105

To spend my time in grieffe and vexe my
soule,

To thinke my loue should be rewarded thus,

And for thy sake abhorre all womenkind!

Em. May not a maide looke vpon a man

Without suspitious iudgement of the world?

Manuile. If sight do moue offence, it is the
better not to see. 111

But thou didst more, vnconstant as thou art,
For with them thou hadst talke and con-
ference.

31-40 Six lines *Qq*, ending fairest, flowre, harte,
theefe, bound, ground 34 the power *Simp.*: the
poure WP 43-52 Four lines *Qq*, ending life, wife,
deere, here 50 Thy loue WP

74 I am *Qq*: I, an *Simp.* 89 seekese *Q I* 91
true louer *Q I* 95 gentlemen *Q I* 111 it is the]
'tis conj. *Simp.*: 'tis th' WP

Em. May not a maide talke with a man
without mistrust?

Manuile. Not with such men suspected
amorous. 115

Em. I grieve to see my *Manuiles* ielosie.

Manuile. Ah, *Em*, faithfull loue is full of
ielosie.

So did I loue thee true and faithfully,
For which I am rewarded most vnthankfully.

[*Exit in a rage. Manet Em.*

(*Em.*) And so awaie? What, in displeasure
gone, 120

And left me such a bittersweete to gnawe vpon?

Ah, *Manuile*, little wottest thou

How neere this parting goeth to my heart.

Vncourteous loue, whose followers reapes
reward

Of hate, disdaine, reproach and infamie, 125

The fruit of frantike, bedlome ielozie!

[*Here enter Mountney to Em.*

But here comes one of these suspitious men:

Witnes, my God, without desert of me,

For onely *Manuile*, honor I in harte,

Nor shall vnkindnes cause me from him to
starte. 130

Mountney. For this good fortune, Venus,
be thou blest,

To meete my loue, the mistres of my heart,

Where time and place giues oportunitie

At full to let her understand my loue.

[*He turnes to Em & offers to take her by
the hand, & shee goes from him.*

Faire mistres, since my fortune sorts so well,

Hearre you a word. What meaneth this? 136

Nay, stay, faire *Em*.

Em. I am going homewards, syr.

Mountney. Yet stay, sweete loue, to whom
I must disclose

The hidden secrets of a louers thoughts,

Not doubting but to finde such kinde remorse

As naturally you are enclined to. 141

Em. The Gentle-man, your friend, Syr,

I haue not seene him this foure dayes at the
least.

Mountney. Whats that to me? 144

I speak not, sweete, in person of my friend,

But for my selfe, whom, if that loue deserue

To haue regard, being honourable loue,

Not base affects of loose lasciuious loue,

Whome youthfull wantons play and dally
with,

But that vnites in honourable bands of holy
rytes, 150

And knits the sacred knot that Gods—

[*Here Em cuts him off.*

120 *Prefix om. Qy*
honourable *om. WP*

144-5 *One line Q 1*

150

Em. What meane you, sir, to keepe me
here so long?

I cannot vnderstand you by your sygnes;
You keepe a prating with your lippes, 154
But neuer a word you speake that I can heare.

Mountney. What, is shee deafe? a great
impediment.

Yet remedies there are for such defects.

Sweete *Em*, it is no little grieffe to mee,
To see, where nature in her pryde of art 159

Hath wrought perfections ritch and admir-
able—

Em. Speake you to mee, Sir?

Mountney. To thee, my onely ioy.

Em. I cannot heare you.

Mountney. Oh, plague of Fortune! Oh,
hell without compare!

What bootes it vs to gaze and not enioy?

Em. Fare you well, Sir. 165

[*Exit Em. Manet Mountney.*

Mountney. Fare well, my loue. Nay, fare-
well life and all!

Could I procure redresse for this infirmitie,
It might be meanes shee would regard my
sute.

I am acquainted with the Kings Phisitions,
Amongst the which theres one mine honest
friend, 170

Seignior Alberto, a verie learned man.

His iudgement will I haue to help this ill.

Ah, *Em*, faire *Em*, if Art can make thee whole,
He buy that sence for thee, although it cost
mee deere.

But, *Mountney*, stay: this may be but deceit,

A matter fained onely to delude thee, 176

And, not vnlike, perhaps by *Valingford*.

He loues faire *Em* as well as I—

As well as I? ah, no, not halfe so well.

Put case: yet may he be thine enimie, 180

And giue her counsell to dissemble thus.

He try the euent and if it fall out so,

Frindship, farewell: Loue makes me now a foe.

[*Exit Mountney.*

(SCENE II.

An Ante-Chamber at the Danish Court.)

Enter Marques Lubeck and Mariana.

Mariana. Trust me, my Lord, I am sorie
for your hurt.

Lubeck. Gramercie, Madam; but it is not
great:

Onely a thrust, prickt with a Rapiers point. 3

Mariana. How grew the quarrel, my Lord?

Lubeck. Sweet Ladie, for thy sake. There

172 haue] *crave conj. Simp.* Scene II. D: Act II.
Scene I. T 5-22 Verse Qy

was this last night two maskes in one company, my selfe the foremost. The other strangers were: amongst the which, when the Musick began to sound the Measures, eche Masker made choice of his Ladie; and one, more forward than the rest, stept towards thee, which I perceiuing, thrust him aside, and tooke thee my selfe. But this was taken in so ill parte that at my comming out of the court gate, with iustling together, it was my chaunce to be thrust into the arme. The doer thereof, because he was the originall cause of the disorder at that inconuenient time, was presently committed, and is this morning sent for to aunswer the matter. And I think here he comes.

[*Here enters Sir Robert of Windsor with a Gaylor.*]

What, Sir *Robert of Windsor*, how now?

Sir Robert. Yfaith, my Lord, a prisoner: but what ayles your arme?

Lubeck. Hurte the last night by mischaunce.

Sir Robert. What, not in the maske at the Court gate?

Lubeck. Yes, trust me, there.

Sir Rob. Why then, my Lorde, I thank you for my nights lodging.

Lubeck. And I you for my hurt, if it were so. Keeper, awaie, I discharge you of your prisoner.

[*Exit the Keeper.*]

Sir Robert. Lord *Marques*, you offered me disgrace to shoulder me.

Lubeck. Sir, I knew you not, and therefore you must pardon me, and the rather it might be alleaged to me of meare simplicitie to see another daunce with my Maistris, disguised, and I my selfe in presence. But seeing it was our happs to damnifie each other vnwillingly, let vs be content with our harmes, and laye the fault where it was, and so become friendes.

Sir Robert. Yfaith, I am content with my nights lodging, if you be content with your hurt.

Lubeck. Not content that I haue it, but content to forget how I came by it.

Sir Robert. My Lord, here comes Ladie *Blaunch*, lets away.

[*Enter Blaunch.*]

Lubeck. With good will. Ladie, you will staie?

[*Exit Lubeck and Sir Robert.*]

Mariana. Madam—

Blaunch. *Mariana*, as I am griued with thy presence: so am I not offended for thy absence; and were it not a breach to modestie, thou shouldest know before I left thee.

Mariana. How neare is this humor to

madnesse! If you hould on as you begyn, you are in a pretie waie to scoulding.

Blaunch. To scoulding, huswife?

Mariana. Maddam, here comes one.

[*Here enters one with a letter.*]

Blaunch. There doth in deed. Fellow, wouldest thou haue any thing with any bodie here?

Messenger. I haue a letter to deliuer to the Ladie *Mariana*.

Blaunch. Giue it me.

Messen. There must none but shee haue it.

Blaunch snatcheth the letter from him. *Et exit messenger.* Go to, foolish fellow. And therefore, to ease the anger I sustaine, Ile be so bolde to open it. Whats here? Sir *Robert* greets you well? You, Maistries, his loue, his life? Oh amorous man, how he entertaines his new Maistres; and bestowes on *Lubeck*, his od friend, a horne night capp to keepe in his witt.

Mariana. Maddam, though you haue discourteously redd my letter, yet I praye you giue it me.

Blaunch. Then take it: there, and there, and there! [*She teares it.* *Et exit Blaunch.*]

Mariana. How farr doth this differ from modestie! Yet will I gather vp the peeces, which happelie may shew to me the intent thereof, though not the meaning.

[*She gathers vpp the peeces and ioynes them.*]

'Your seruant and loue, sir *Robert of Windsor*, Alias *William the Conqueror*, wisheth long health and happinesse'. Is this *William the Conqueror*, shrouded vnder the name of sir *Robert of Windsor*? Were he the Monarch of the world he should not disposesse *Lubeck* of his Loue. Therefore I will to the Court, and there, if I can, close to be friendes with Ladie *Blaunch*; and thereby keepe *Lubeck*, my Loue, for my selfe, and further the Ladie *Blaunch* in her sute, as much as I may.

[*Exit.*]

(SCENE III.

Manchester. The Mill.)

Enter Em sola.

Em. Ielosie, that sharpenes the louers sight, And makes him conceiue and conster his intent,

Hath so bewitched my louely *Manuils* sences That he misdoubts his *Em*, that loues his soule;

60 If you Q 1 71-98 Verse Qq 74 Your Maistries
Qq 77 old Chet. 88 Q 1 repeats the prefix Mariana
before this line 89 Alius Qq Scene III. D: Scene
II. T S.D. solus Qq

He doth suspect corriuals in his loue, 5
Which, how vnture it is, be iudge, my God!
But now no more—Here commeth *Valingford*;
Shift him off now, as thou hast done the other.

Enter Valingford.

Valingf. See how Fortune presents me
with the hope I lookt for. Faire Eml 10

Em. Who is that?

Valingf. I am *Valingford*, thy loue and
friend.

Em. I cry you mercie, Sir; I thought so by
your speech. 15

Valingf. What ayleth thy eyes?

Em. Oh blinde, Sir, blinde, stricken blind, by
mishap, on a sudden.

Valingf. But is it possible you should be
taken on such a suddain? Infortunate *Valing-*
ford, to be thus crost in thy loue! Faire *Em*,
I am not a little sorie to see this thy hard hap.
Yet neuerthelesse, I am acquainted with a
learned Phisitian that will do any thing for
thee at my request. To him will I resort, and
enquire his iudgement, as concerning the
recouerie of so excellent a sence. 27

Em. Oh Lord, Sir: and of all things I cannot
abide Phisicke, the verie name thereof to me
is odious.

Valingford. No? not the thing will doe thee
so much good? Sweete *Em*, hether I came to
parley of loue, hoping to haue found thee in
thy woonted prosperitie; and haue the gods so
vnmercifully thwarted my expectation, by
dealing so sinisterly with thee, sweete *Em*?

Em. Good sir, no more, it fits not me 37
To haue respect to such vaine fantasies
As idle loue presentes my eares withall.

More reason I should ghostlie giue my selfe
To sacred prayers for this my former sinne,
For which this plague is iustly fallen vpon me,
Then to harken to the vanities of loue. 43

Valingford. Yet, sweet *Em*,
Accept this iewell at my hand, which I
Bestowe on thee in token of my loue.

Em. A iewell, sir! what pleasure can I haue
In iewels, treasure, or any worldly thing
That want my sight that should desernethereof?
Ah, sir, I must leaue you: 50
The paine of mine eyes is so extreame,
I cannot long staie in a place. I take my
leaue. [*Exit Em.*]

Valingford. Zoundes, what a crosse is this
to my conceite! But, *Valingford*, serch the
depth of this deuise. Why may not this be

16 thine Q.2 19-36 Verse Qq 44-6 Two lines
Qq, ending hand, loue 53-63 Verse Qq

fained subteltie, by *Mountneies* inuention, to
the intent that I seeing such occasion should
leaue off my sute and not any more persiste
to sollicite her of loue? Ile trie the euent; if
I can by any meanes perceau the effect of
this deceyte to be procured by his meanes,
freind *Mountney*, the one of vs is like to repent
our bargeine. [*Exit.*]

(ACT III.

SCENE I. *The Danish Court.*)

Enter Mariana and Marques Lubeck.

Lubeck. Ladie,

Since that occasion, forward in our good,
Presenteth place and opportunitie,
Let me intreat your woonted kind consent
And freindly furtherance in a suite I haue. 5

Mariana. My Lord, you know you neede
not to intreat,

But may commaund *Mariana* to her power,
Be it no impeachment to my honest fame.

Lubeck. Free are my thoughts from such
base villanie

As may in question, Ladie, call your name: 10
Yet is the matter of such consequence,

Standing vpon my honorable credit,
To be effected with such zeale and secresie
As, should I speake and faile my expectation,
It would redound greatly to my preiudice. 15

Mariana. My Lord, wherein hath *Mariana*
giuen you

Occasion that you should mistrust, or else
Be ielous of my secrecie?

Lubeck. *Mariana*, do not misconster of me:
I not mistrust thee, nor thy secresie; 20

Nor let my loue misconster my intente,
Nor think thereof but well and honorable.
Thus stands the case:

Thou knowest from England hether came with
me

Robert of Windsor, a noble man at Armes, 25
Lustie and valiant, in spring time of his yeares:
No maruell then though he proue amorous.

Mariana. True, my Lord, he came to see
faire *Blanch*.

Lubeck. No, *Mariana*, that is not it. His
loue to *Blanch* 29

Was then extinct, when first he sawe thy face.
'Tis thee he loues; yea, thou art onely shee
That is maistres and commander of his
thoughts.

Act III, Scene I. D: Scene III. T 1-2 One line
Qq: dir. D 15 I would Q 1 16-18 Two lines
Qq, dir. after occasion: dir. after Mariana, mistrust D
29-30 Three lines Qq, ending it, extinct, face 29
not] non Q 1 Blinck Q 1

Mariana. Well, well, my Lord, I like you,
for such driftes
Put silly Ladies often to their shiftes. 34
Oft haue I heard you saye you loued me
well,

Yea, sworne the same, and I beleueed you to.
Can this be found an action of good faith
Thus to dissemble where you found true loue?

Lubeck. *Mariana*, I not dissemble, on mine
honour, 39
Nor failes my faith to thee. But for my friend,
For princely William, by whom thou shalt
posseesse

The tytle of estate and Maiestie,
Fitting thy loue, and vertues of thy minde—
For him I speake, for him do I intreat,
And with thy fauour fully do resigne 45
To him the claime and interest of my loue.
Sweete *Mariana*, then, denie mee not:
Loue William, loue my friend, and honour
mee,

Who els is cleane dishonored by thy meanes.
Mariana. Borne to mishap, my selfe am
onely shee 50
On whome the Sunne of Fortune neuer shynd:
But Planets rulde by retrogard aspect
Foretolde mine yll in my natiuitie.

Lubeck. Sweete Ladie, seace, let my
intreatie serue
To pacifie the passion of thy grieve, 55
Which, well I know, proceedes of ardent loue.

Mariana. But *Lubeck* now regards not
Mariana.

Lubeck. Euen as my life, so loue I *Mariana*.
Mariana. Why do you poste mee to an-
other then?

Lubeck. He is my friend, and I do loue the
man. 60

Mariana. Then will *Duke William* robb
me of my Loue?

Lubeck. No, as his life *Mariana* he doth
loue.

Mariana. Speake for your selfe, my Lord,
let him alone.

Lubeck. So do I, Madam, for he and I am
one.

Mariana. Then louing you I do content
you both. 65

Lubeck. In louing him, you shall content
vs both:

Me, for I craue that fauour at your handes,
He, for (he) hopes that comfort at your
handes.

Mariana. Leaued of, my Lord, here comes
the Ladie *Blaunch*.

42 and estate of *D* 68 Him, for he hopes *Simp*.
he add. *T*

Enter Blaunch to them.

Lubeck. Hard hap to breake vs of our talke
so soone! 70
Sweet *Mariana*, doe remember me.

[*Exit Lubeck.*

Mariana. Thy *Mariana* cannot chuse but
remember thee.

Blaunch. *Mariana*, well met. You are verie
forward in your Loue? 75

Mariana. Madam, be it in secret spoken
to your selfe, if you wil but follow the com-
plot I haue inuented, you will not think me
so forward as your selfe shall proue fortunate.

Blaunch. As how? 80

Mariana. Madam, as thus: It is not
vnknownen to you that *Sir Robert* of *Windsor*,
a man that you do not little esteeme, hath
long importuned me of Loue; but rather then
I will be found false or vnjust to the *Marques*
Lubeck, I will, as did the constant ladie
Penelope, vndertake to effect some great taske.

Blaunch. What of all this? 88

Mariana. The next tyme that *Sir Robert*
shall come in his woonted sort to solicit me
with Loue, I will seeme to agree and like of
any thing that the Knight shal demaund, so
far fourth as it be no impeachment to my
chastitie: And, to conclude, poynt some place
for to meete the man, for my conueiance from
the *Denmarke* Court: which determined vpon,
he will appoynt some certaine time for our
departure: whereof you hauing intelligence,
you may soone set downe a plot to were the
English Crowne, and than— 100

Blanch. What then?

Mariana. If *Sir Robert* proue a King and
you his Queene, how than?

Blanch. Were I assured of the one, as I am
perswaded of the other, there were some pos-
sibilitie in it. But here comes the man. 106

Mariana. Madam, begon, and you shall see
I will worke to your desire and my content.

[*Exit Blanch.*

(*Enter W. Conqueror.*)

William Con. Ladie, this is well and hap-
pelie met.

Fortune hetherto hath beene my foe, 110
And though I haue oft sought to speake with you,
Yet still I haue beene crost with sinister happs.
I cannot, Madame, tell a louing tale
Or court my Maistres with fabulous discourses,
That am a souldier sworne to followe armes:

76-106 Verse *Qq* 100, 103 then *Q 2* 108 *S. D.*
Enter, etc. om. *Qq* 109 Sweet Lady *WP* 110 For
Fortune *Simp.* 114 discourses *Q 1*

But this I bluntly let you vnderstand, 116
 I honor you with such religious Zeale
 As may become an honorable minde.
 Nor may I make my loue the seege of Troye,
 That am a stranger in this Countrie. 120
 First, what I am I know you are resolved,
 For that my friend hath let you that to vnder-
 stand,

The *Marques Lubeck*, to whome I am so bound
 That whilst I liue I count me onely his.

Mariana. Surely you are beholding to the
Marques, 125
 For he hath beene an earnest spokes-man in
 your cause.

William. And yealdes my Ladie, then, at
 his request,

To grace Duke *William* with her gracious loue?

Mariana. My Lord, I am a prisoner, 129
 And hard it were to get me from the Courte.

William. An easie matter to get you from
 the Court,

If case that you will thereto giue consent.

Mariana. Put case I should, how would
 you vse me than?

William. Not otherwise but well and
 honorably.

I haue at Sea a shipp that doth attend, 135
 Which shall forthwith conducte vs into
 England,

Where when we are, I straight will marrie
 thee.

We may not stay deliberating long,
 Least that suspition, enuious of our weale,
 Set in a foote to hinder our pretence. 140

Mariana. But this I think were most con-
 uenient,

To maske my face, the better to scape
 vnknown.

William. A good deuise: till then, Farwell,
 faire loue.

Mariana. But this I must intreat your
 grace,

You would not seeke by lust vnlawfully 145
 To wrong my chast determinations.

William. I hold that man most shameles
 in his sinne

That seekes to wrong an honest Ladies name
 Whome he thinks wortheie of his mariage bed.

Mariana. In hope your othe is true, 150
 I leaue your grace till the appoynted tyme.

[*Exit Mariana*.]

William. O happie *William*, blessed in thy
 loue,

Most fortunate in *Marianaes* loue!

122 you t' vnderstand *Simp.* 129-30 *Dir.* after
 were *Qq*: three lines *WP.* ending Lord, were, Court
 133 then *Q 2*

Well, *Lubeck*, well, this courtesie of thine 154
 I will requite, if God permit me life. [*Exit*.]

(SCENE II.

Manchester. Near the Mill.)

*Enter Valingford and Mountney at two sundrie
 dores, looking angrily each on other with
 Rapiers drawn.*

Mountney. *Valingford*, so hardlie I digest
 An iniurie thou hast profered me,
 As, were (it) not that I detest to doe

What stands not with the honor of my name,
 Thy death should paie thy ransome of thy fault.

Valingford. And, *Mountney*, had not my
 reuenging wrath, 6

Incensd with more than ordinarie loue,
 Beene loth for to depriue thee of thy life,
 Thou hadst not liude to braue me as thou doest.
 Wretch as thou arte, 10

Wherein hath *Valingford* offended thee?
 That honourable bond which late we did
 Confirm in presence of the Gods,
 When with the Conqueror we arriued here,
 For my part hath beene kept inuiolably, 15
 Till now too much abused by thy villanie,
 I am inforced to cancell all those bands,
 By hating him which I so well did loue.

Mountney. Subtil thou art, and cunning in
 thy frawd,

That, giuing me occasion of offence, 20
 Thou pickst a quarrell to excuse thy shame.

Why, *Valingford*, was it not enough for thee
 To be a ryuall twixt me and my loue,
 But counsell her, to my no small disgrace,
 That, when I came to talke with her of loue,
 She should seeme deafe, as fayning not to
 heare? 26

Valingford. But hath shee, *Mountney*, vsed
 thee as thou sayest?

Mountney. Thou knowest too well shee
 hath:

Wherein thou couldest not do me greater
 iniurie.

Valingford. Then I perceiue we are deluded
 both. 30

For when I offered many gifts of Gold,
 And Jewels to entreat for loue,
 Shee hath refused them with a coy disdainie,
 Alledging that shee could not see the Sunne.
 The same coniectured I to be thy drift, 35

Scene II. D Manchester etc. pr. ed.: England.
 Country near the Court T 1-4 Three lines Qq.
 ending iniurie, stands, name 3 were it D: were
 Q 1: wert Q 2 5 thy ransome the ransom T
 8 loth pr. ed.: such Qq, etc. 9-10 One line Qq: dir. D
 12 Line ends confirme Qq: corr. D 31-3 Two lines
 Qq, dir. after Jewels: corr. D

That fayning so shee might be ridd of mee.

Mountney. The like did I by thee. But are not these

Naturall impediments?

Valingford. In my coniecture merely counterfeited:

Therefore lets ioyne hands in frindship once againe, 40

Since that the iarre grew only by coniecture.

Mountney. With all my heart: Yet lets trye the truth hereof.

Valingf. With right good will. We wil straight vnto her father,

And there to learne whither it be so or no. [Exeunt.

(SCENE III.

Outside the Danish Palace.)

Enter William and Blanch disguised, with a maske ouer her face.

William. Come on, my loue, the comfort of my life.

Disguised thus we may remaine vnknowne, And get we once to Seas, I force not then, We quickly shall attaine the English shore.

Blaunch. But this I vrge you with your former oath: 45

You shall not seeke to violate mine honour, Vntill our marriage rights be all performed.

William. *Mariana*, here I sweare to thee by heauen,

And by the honour that I beare to Armes, Neuer to seeke or craue at hands of thee 10

The spoyle of honourable chastitie, Vntill we do attaine the English coast,

Where thou shalt be my right espoused Queene.

Blanch. In hope your oath proceedeth from your heart,

Let's leaue the Court, and betake vs to his power 15

That gouernes all things to his mightie will, And will reward the iust with endlesse ioye,

And plague the bad with most extreame annoy. *William.* Lady, as little tarriance as wee may,

Lest some misfortune happen by the way. 20

[Exit Blanch & William.

(SCENE IV.

Manchester. The Mill.)

Enter the Miller, his man Trotter, & Manuile.

Miller. I tell you, sir, it is no little greefe

37-8 One line Qq; dic. D 42 thereof Q 2 Scene III. D Outside . . Palace pr. ed. Scene IV. add. D 1-94 Verse Qq

to mee, you should so hardly conseit of my daughter, whose honest report, though I saie it, was neuer blotted with any title of defamati- 5

Manuile. Father Miller, the repaire of those gentlemen to your house hath giuen me great occasion to mislike.

Miller. As for those gentlemen, I neuer saw in them any euill intreatie. But should they haue profered it, her chaste minde hath prooue enough to preuent it. 12

Trotter. Those gentlemen are as honest as euery I sawe: For yfaith one of them gaue me six pence to fetch a quart of Seck.—See, maister, here they come. 16

Enter Mountney and Valingford.

Miller. Trotter, call Em. Now they are here together, Ile haue this matter thoroughly debated. [Exit Trotter.

Mountney. Father, well met. We are come to conferre with you. 21

Manuile. Nay, with his daughter rather.

Valingford. Thus it is, father, we are come to craue your frindship in a matter.

Miller. Gentlemen, as you are straungers to me, yet by the waie of courtesie you shall demaund any reasonable thing at my hands.

Manuile. What, is the matter so forward they came to craue his good will? 29

Valingford. It is giuen vs to vnderstand that your daughter is sodenly become both blind and deafe.

Miller. Marie, God forbid! I haue sent for her. In deed, she hath kept her chamber this three daies. It were no litle grieffe to me if it should be so. 36

Manuile. This is Gods iudgement for her trecherie.

Enter Trotter, leading Em.

Miller. Gentlemen, I feare your wordes are too true. See where Trotter comes leading of her.—What ayles my Em? Not blind, I hope? 42

Em. (Aside) Mountney and Valingford both together! And Manuile, to whom I haue faithfullie vowed my loue! Now, Em, suddenly helpe thy selfe.

Mountney. This is no dessembling, Valingford.

Valingford. If it be, it is cunningly contriued of all sides. 50

Em. (Aside to Trotter) Trotter, lend me thy hand, and as thou louest me, keepe my

29 came Q 1; come Q 2, etc. 40 two true Qq S. D. 51 S. D. add. WF
Aside add. T 49 If ir be Q 1

counsell, and iustifie what so euer I saie and
Ile largely requite thee. 54

Trotter. Ah, thats as much as to saie you
would tell a monstrous, terrible, horrible, out-
ragious lie, and I shall sooth it—no, berladie!

Em. My present extremitie wills me,—if
thou loue me, *Trotter.*

Trotter. That same word loue makes me to
doe any thing. 61

Em. Trotter, wheres my father?

Trotter. Why, what a blynd dunce are you,
can you not see? He standeth right before
you. [*He thrusts Em vpon her father.*]

Em. Is this my father?—Good father, giue
me leaue to sit where I may not be disturbed,
sith God hath visited me both of my sight and
hearing. 69

Miller. Tell me, sweete Em, how came
this blindness? Thy eyes are louely to looke
on, and yet haue they lost the benefit of their
sight. What a grieve is this to thy poore
father! 74

Em. Good father, let me not stand as an
open gazing stock to euerie one, but in a place
alone, as fits a creature so miserable. 77

Miller. Trotter, lead her in, the vtter ouer-
throwe of poore *Goddardes* ioy and onely
solace. [*Exit the Miller, Trotter and Em.*]

Manuile. Both blind and deafe! Then is
she no wife for me; and glad am I so good
occasion is hapned: Now will I awaite to
Chester, and leaue these gentlemen to their
blind fortune. [*Exit Manuile.*]

Mountney. Since fortune hath thus spite-
fully crost our hope, let vs leaue this quest
and harken after our King, who is at this daie
landed at *Lirpoole*. [*Exit Mountney.*]

Valingford. Goe, my Lord, Ile follow you.—
Well, now *Mountney* is gone, Ile staie behind
to solicit my loue; for I imagine that I shall
find this but a fained inuention, thereby to
haue vs leaue off our sutes. 94

(*Exit Valingford.*)

(SCENE V.)

The Danish Court.

*Enter Marques Lubeck and the King of Den-
mark, angerly with some attendants.*

Zweno K. Well, *Lubeck*, well, it is not
possible

But you must be concenting to this acte?

Is this the man so highly you extold?

And playe a parte so hatefull with his friend?

65 *S. D.* after 62 *Qq* 84 *Chester D:* Manchester *Qq*
87 quest *T:* guest *Qq* 88 harken? hasten *S. D.*
add. D Scene V. *add. D* The Court *T*

Since first he came with thee into the court, 5
What entertainment and what countenance
He hath receiued, none better knowes than
thou.

In recompence whereof, he quites me well
To steale awaie faire *Mariana* my prisoner,
Whose raunsome being lately greed vpon, 10
I am deluded of by this escape.

Besides, I know not how to answer it,
When shee shal be demanded home to
Swethia.

Lubeck. My gracious Lord, coniecture not,
I pray,

Worser of *Lubeck* than he doth deserue: 15
Your highnes knowes *Mariana* was my loue,
Sole paragon and mistres of my thoughts.

Is it likely I should know of her departure,
Wherein there is no man iniured more than I?

Zweno. That carries reason, *Marques*, I
confesse. 20

Call foorth my daughter. Yet I am perswaded
That shee, poore soule, suspected not her
going:

For as I heare, shee likewise loued the man,
Which he, to blame, did not at all regard.

(*Enter Rocilio and Mariana.*)

Rocilio. My Lord, here is the Princesse
Mariana; 25

It is your daughter is conueyed away.

Zweno. What, my daughter gone?

Now, *Marques*, your villanie breakes foorth.
This match is of your making, gentle sir,
And you shall dearly know the price thereof.

Lubeck. Knew I thereof, or that there was
intent 31

In Robert thus to steale your highnes daughter,
Let heauens in Iustice presently confound
me.

Zweno. Not all the protestations thou canst
vse

Shall saue thy life. Away with him to prison!
And, minion, otherwise it cannot be 36

But you are an agent in this trecherie.

I will reuenge it throughly on you both.
Away with her to prison! Heres stufte in
deede!

My daughter stolen away!— 40

It booteth not thus to disturbe my selfe,
But presently to send to English William,
To send me that proud knight of Windsor
hither,

Here in my Court to suffer for his shame,
Or at my pleasure to be punished there, 45
Withall that *Blanch* be sent me home againe,

S. D. add. D 24 *Prefix Rocilia Qq*

Or I shall fetch her vnto *Windsors* coste,
Yea, and *Williams* too, if he denie her mee.
[*Exit Zwen* (and the rest.)]

(SCENE VI.

England. Camp of the Earl Demarch.)

Enter William, taken with souldiers.

William. Could any crosse, could any
plague be worse?
Could heauen or hell, did both conspire in one
To afflict my soule, inuent a greater scourge
Then presently I am tormented with?
Ah, *Mariana*, cause of my lament, 5
Ioy of my hart, and comfort of my life!
For tho I breath my sorrowes in the ayre
And tyre my selfe, or silently I sigh,
My sorrowes afflicties my soule with equall
passion.

Souldier. Go to, sirha, put vp, it is to small
purpose. 10

William. Hence, villaines, hence! dare
you lay your hands
Vpon your Soueraigne?

Souldier. Well, sir, we will deale for that.
But here comes one will remedie all this.

Enter Demarch.

My Lord, watching this night in the campe, 15
We tooke this man, and know not what he is:
And in his companie was a gallant dame,
A woman faire in outward shewe shee seemde,
But that her face was maskte, we could not see
The grace and fauour of her countenance. 20

Demarch. Tell me, good fellow, of whence
and what thou art.

Souldier. Why do you not answer me my Lord?
He takes scorne to answer.

Demarch. And takest thou scorne to
answer my demaund?

Thy proud behauiour verie well deserues 25
This misdemeanour at the worst be construed.
Why doest thou neither know, nor hast thou
heard,

That in the absence of the Saxon Duke
Demarch is his especiall Substitute

To punish those that shall offend the lawes?

William. In knowing this, I know thou art
a traytor; 31

A rebell, and mutenous conspirator.

Why, *Demarch*, knowest thou who I am?

Demarch. Pardon, my dread Lord, the
error of my sence,

And misdemeaner to your princely excellencie.

Scene VI, D: Act III. Scene I, T England etc.
add, T 2 hell? Did Q 1 7 tho pr. ed.: thee Qq;
whether conj. Simp. 8 or conj. Simp.: for Qq 9
me soule Q 1 15 Prefix Souldier repeated Qq

Willi. Why, *Demarch*, 36
What is the cause my subjects are in armes?
Demarch. Free are my thoughts, my dread
and gracious Lord,
From treason to your state and common weale;
Only reuengement of a priuate grudge 40
By Lord *Diro* lately profered me,
That standes not with the honor of my name,
Is cause I haue assembled for my guard
Some men in armes that may withstand his
force,

Whose settled malice aymeth at my life. 45
William. Where is Lord *Diro*?

Demarch. In armes, my gracious Lord,
Not past two miles from hence, as credibly
I am ascertained.

William. Well, come, let vs goe.
I feare I shall find traytors of you both. 49
[*Exit.*

(ACT IV.

SCENE I.)

(*Chester. Before the Citizen's House.*)

*Enter the Citizen of Chester, and his daughter
Elner, and Manuile.*

Citizen. In deed, sir, it would do verie well
if you could intreat your father to come hither:
but if you thinke it be too farr, I care not
much to take horse and ride to Manchester.
I am sure my daughter is content with either.
How saiest thou, *Elner*, art thou not? 6

Elner. As you shall think best I must be
contented.

Manuile. Well, *Elner*, farwell. Onely
thus much, I pray: make all things in a readi-
nes, either to serue here, or to carry thither
with vs. 12

Citizen. As for that, sir, take you no care;
and so I betake you to your iournie.

(*Exit Manuile.*)

Enter Valingford.

But soft, what gentleman is this?

Valingf. God speed, sir. Might a man
craue a word or two with you?

Citizen. God forbid els, sir; I praye you
speake your pleasure. 19

Valingford. The gentleman that parted
from you, was he not of Manchester, his father
lyuing there of good account?

Citizen. Yes, mary is he, sir. Why doe you

46-9 Sic lines Qq, ending *Diro*, Lord, hence, asser-
tained, go, both. Act IV, Scene I, add, D S. D.
Chester T: Manchester Qq 1-65 Verse Qq S. D.
add, T

aske? Belike you haue had some acquaintance with him. 25

Valingford. I haue been acquainted in times past, but, through his double dealing, I am growen werie of his companie. For, be it spoken to you, he hath beene acquainted with a poore millers daughter, and diuers tymes hath promist her mariage. But what with his delays and floutes he hath brought her into such a taking that I feare me it will cost her her life. 34

Citizen. To be playne with you, sir, his father and I haue beene of old acquaintance, and a motion was made betweene my daughter and his sonne, which is now thoroughly agreed vpon, saue onely the place appoynted for the mariage, whether it shall be kept here or at Manchester; and for no other occasion he is now ridden. 42

Elnor. What hath he done to you, that you should speake so ill of the man?

Valingford. Oh, gentlewoman, I crie you mercie: he is your husband that shalbe. 46

Elnor. If I knew this to be true, he should not be my husband were he neuer so good: And therefore, good father, I would desire you to take the paines to beare this gentleman companie to Manchester, to know whether this be true or no. 52

Citizen. Now trust me, gentleman, he deales with me verie hardly, knowing how well I ment to him; but I care not much to ride to Manchester, to know whether his fathers will be he should deale with me so badlie. Will it please you, sir, to goe in? We will presently take horse & awaie.

Valingford. If it please you to go in, Ile followe you presently. 61

[*Exit Elnor and her father.*]

Now shall I be reuenged on *Manuile*, and by this meanes get *Em* to my wife; and therefore I will straght to her fathers and informe them both of all that is hapned. [*Exit.*]

(SCENE II.

The English Court.)

Enter William, the Ambassador of Denmarke, Demarch, and other attendants.

William. What newes with the Denmark Ambassador?

Embassador. Mary, thus:

The King of Denmark and my Soueraine Doth send to know of thee what is the cause That iniuriously, against the law of armes, 5

37 betweene Q 1 Scene II. add. D 2-3 One line Qq; dit. Elze

Thou hast stolen awaie his onely daughter

Blaunch,

The onely staie and comfort of his life.

Therefore by me

He willett thee to send his daughter *Blaunch*, Or else forthwith he will leuy such an hoste, As soone shall fetch her in dispite of thee. 11

William. *Embassador*, this answer I retorne thy King.

He willett me to send his daughter *Blaunch*, Saying, I conuaid her from the Danish court, That neuer yet did once as think thereof. 15

As for his menacing and daunting threats, I nill regard him nor his Danish power; For if he come to fetch her forth my Realme I will provide him such a banquet here, That he shall haue small cause to giue me thanks. 20

Embassador. Is this your answer, then?

William. It is; and so begone.

Embassador. I goe; but to your cost.

[*Exit Ambassador.*]

William. *Demarch*, our subiects, earst leuied in ciuill broyles, 24

Muster forthwith, for to defend the Realme. In hope whereof, that we shall find you true, We freely pardon this thy late offence.

Demarch. Most humble thanks I render to your grace. [*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE III.

Manchester. The Mill.)

Enter the Miller and Valingford.

Miller. Alas, gentleman, why should you trouble your self so much, considering the imperfections of my daughter, which is able to with-drawe the loue of any man from her, as alreadie it hath done in her first choyce. Maister *Manuile* hath forsaken her, and at Chester shalbe married to a mans daughter of no little wealth. But if my daughter knew so much, it would goe verie neere her heart, I feare me. 10

Valing. Father miller, such is the entyre affection to your daughter, as no misfortune whatsoever can alter. My fellow *Mountney*, thou seeste, gaue quickly ouer; but I, by reason of my good meaning, am not so soone to be changed, although I am borne off with scornes and deniall. 17

Enter Em to them.

Miller. Trust me, sir, I know not what to saie. My daughter is not to be compelled by

8-9 One line Qq 24 Two lines D, dic. after Demarch
25 Musterd Qq Scene III. add. D S. D. Millier
Q 1 1-119 Verse Qq

me; but here she comes her self: speake to her and spare not, for I neuer was troubled with loue matters so much before. 22

Em. (*Aside*) Good Lord! shall I neuer be rid of this importunate man? Now must I dissemble blyndnes againe. Once more for thy sake, *Manuile*, thus am I inforced, because I shall complete my full resouled mynde to thee. Father, where are you? 28

Miller. Here, sweete *Em.* Answer this gentleman, that would so fayne enioye thy loue.

Em. Where are you, sir? wil you neuer leaue this idle and vaine pursuite of loue? Is not England stord enough to content you, but you must still trouble the poore contemptible mayd of Manchester? 35

Valing. None can content me but the fayre maide of Manchester.

Em. I perceiue loue is vainly described, that, being blynd himselfe, would haue you likewise troubled with a blinde wife, hauing the benefite of your eyes. But neither follow him so much in follie, but loue one in whome you may better delight. 43

Valingford. Father *Miller*, thy daughter shall haue honor by granting mee her loue. I am a Gentleman of king *Williams* Court, and no meane man in king *Williams* fauour. 47

Em. If you be a Lorde, syr, as you saye, you offer both your selfe and mee great wrong: yours, as apparant, in limittin your loue so vnorderly, for which you rashly endure reprochement; mine, as open and euident, when, being shut from the vanities of this world, you would haue me as an open gazing stock to all the world; for lust, not loue, leades you into this error. But from the one I will keepe me as well as I can, and yeeld the other to none but to my father, as I am bound by duetie. 54

Valingford. Why, faire *Em*, *Manuile* hath forsaken thee, and must at Chester be married: which if I speake otherwise than true, let thy father speake what credibly he hath heard.

Em. But can it be *Manuile* will deale so vnkindly to reward my iustice with such monstrous vngentlenes? Haue I dissembled for thy sake, and doest thou now thus requite it? In deede these many daies I haue not seene him, which hath made me marueile at his long absence. But, father, are you assured of the wordes he spake were concerning *Manuile*? 71

Miller. In sooth, daughter, now it is forth I must needs confirme it: Maister *Manuile* hath forsaken thee, and at Chester must be

married to a mans daughter of no little wealth. His owne father procures it, and therefore I dare credit it; and do thou beleuee it, for trust mee, daughter, it is so. 78

Em. Then, good father, pardon the iniurie that I haue don to you, onely causing your grieffe, by ouer-fond affecting a man so trothlesse. And you likewise, sir, I pray holde me excused, as I hope this cause will allow sufficiently for mee: My loue to *Manuile*, thinking he would requite it, hath made me double with my father and you, and many more besides, which I will no longer hyde from you. That inticing speeches should not beguile mee, I haue made my selfe deafe to any but to him; and lest any mans person should please mee more than his, I haue dissembled the want of my sight: Both which shaddowes of my irreuocable affections I haue not sparde to confirme before him, my father, and all other amorous solliciters—wherewith not made acquainted, I perceiue my true intent hath wrought mine owne sorrow, and seeking by loue to be regarded, am cut of with contempt, and dispised. 99

Miller. Tell me, sweet *Em*, hast thou but fained all this while for his loue, that hath so discourteously forsaken thee? 102

Em. Credit me, father, I haue told you the troth; wherewith I desire you and Lord *Valingford* not to be displeased. For ought else I shall saie, let my present grieffe hold me excused. But, may I liue to see that vngratfull man iustly rewarded for his trecherie, poore *Em* woulde think her selfe not a little happie. Fauour my departing at this instant; for my troubled thought desires to meditate alone in silence. [*Exit Em.*]

Valingf. Will not *Em* shew one cherefull looke on *Valingford*? 114

Miller. Alas, sir, blame her not; you see she hath good cause, being so handled by this gentleman: And so Ile leaue you, and go comfort my poore wench as well as I may. [*Exit the Miller.*]

Valingford. Farewell, good father. 119
[*Exit Valingford.*]

{ACT V.

SCENE I.}

(*Open country in England.*)

Enter Zweno, king of Denmarke, with Rosilio and other attendants.

Zweno. *Rosilio*, is this the place whereas the Duke *William* should meete mee?

104 yon Q 1

Act V. Scene I. *add. D:* Act III.

Scene V. T

1-2 Verse D, *div. after* whereas

Rosilio. It is, and like your grace.

Zweno. Goe, captaine! Away, regard the charge I gaue:

See all our men be martialled for the fight. 5

Dispose the Wardes as lately was deuised;

And let the prisoners vnder seuerall gardes

Be kept apart, vntill you heare from vs.

Let this suffice, you know my resolution.

If William, Duke of Saxons, be the man, 10

That by his answer sent vs, he would seem,

Not words, but wounds: not parleis, but

alarmes,

Must be decider of this controuersie.

Rosilio. stay with mee; the rest begone.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter William, and Demarch with other attendants.

William. All but *Demarch* go shroud you out of sight; 15

For I will goe parley with the Prince my selfe.

Demarch. Should *Zweno* by this parley call you fourth,

Vpon intent iniuriously to deale,

This offereth too much oportunitie.

William. No, no, *Demarch*, 20

That were a breach against the law of Armes:

Therefore begon, and leaue vs here alone.

[*Exeunt.*]

I see that *Zweno* is maister of his worde.

Zweno. William of Saxonie greeteth thee,

Either well or yll, according to thy intent. 25

If well thou wish to him and Saxonie,

He bids thee frindly welcome as he can.

If yll thou wish to him and Saxanie,

He must withstand thy mallice as he may.

Zweno. William, 30

For other name and title giue I none

To him, who, were he worthe of those honours

That Fortune and his predecessors left,

I ought, by right and humane courtesie,

To grace his style with Duke of Saxonie; 35

But, for I finde a base, degenerate mynde,

I frame my speech according to the man,

And not the state that he vnworthe holds.

William. Herein, *Zweno*, dost thou abase thy state,

To breake the peace which by our auncesters

Hath heretofore bene honourably kept. 41

Zweno. And should that peace for euer

haue been kept,

Had not thy selfe beene author of the breach:

Nor stands it with the honor of my state,

Or nature of a father to his childe, 45

That I should so be robbed of my daughter,

And not vnto the vtmost of my power

Reuenge so intollerable an iniurie.

William. Is this the colour of your quarrell,

Zweno?

I well perceiue the wisest men may erre. 50

And thinke you I conueyed away your daughter

Blanch?

Zweno. Art thou so impudent to denye

thou didst,

When that the prooffe thereof is manifest?

William. What prooffe is there?

Zweno. Thine owne confession is sufficient

prooffe. 55

William. Did I confesse I stole your daughter

Blanch?

Zweno. Thou didst confesse thou hadst a

Ladie hence.

William. I haue, and do.

Zweno. Why, that was *Blanch*, my

daughter.

William. Nay, that was *Mariana*,

Who wrongfully thou detainest prisoner. 60

Zweno. Shamelesse persisting in thy ill!

Thou doest mayntaine a manifest vntrothe,

As shee shall iustifie vnto thy teethe.

Rosilio. fetch her and the *Marques* hether.

[*Exit Rosilio for Mariana.*]

William. It cannot be I should be so

deceued. 65

Demarch. I heard this night among the

souldiers

That in their watch they tooke a pensiuie Ladie,

Who, at the appoyntment of the Lord *Diot*,

Is yet in keeping. What she is I know not:

Onely thus much I ouer-hard by chance. 70

William. And what of this?

Demarch. It may be *Blaunçh*, the King of

Denmarkes daughter.

William. It may be so: but on my lyfe it

is not;

Yet, *Demarch*, goe, and fetch her strayght.

(*Exit Demarch.*)

Enter Rosilio with the Marques.

Rosilio. Pleaseth your highnes, here is the

Marques and *Mariana*. 75

Zweno. See here, Duke *William*, your com-

petitors,

That were consenting to my daughters scape

Let them resolute you of the trueth herein.

And here I vowe and solemnly protest,

That in thy presence they shall lose their heds,

10 Saxons *pr. ed.*: Saxon *Qq*: Saxonie *WP* 11
 seem *corr.* *Simp.*: send *Qq* 20-2 *Div.* after breach,
 begon *Qq*: *corr.* *D* 30-1 *One line Qq*: *dic.* *WP*
 35 style his grace the *Simp.*: grace his style the *WP*

58 daughter *Q 1* 68-9 *Div.* after keeping *Qq*:
corr. *D* *S. D.* add. *Elze* 78 resolut. . hereing *Q 1*:
corr. *Q 2*

Vnlesse I here where as my daughter is. 81
William. Oh, *Marques Lubeck*, how it
 grieueth me,
 That for my sake thou shouldest indure these
 bondes,
 Be iudge my soule that feeles the martir-
 dome!
Marques. Duke *William*, you know it is
 for your cause, 85
 It pleaseth thus the King to misconceiue of me,
 And for his pleasure doth me iniurie.

Enter Demarch with the Ladie Blanch.

Demarch. May it please your highnes,
 Here is the Ladie whom you sent me for.
William. Awake, *Demarch*! what tellest
 thou me of Ladies? 90

I so detest the dealing of their sex,
 As that I count a louers state to be
 The base and vildest slauerie in the world.

Demarch. What humors are these? Heres
 a straunge alteration!

Zweno. See, Duke *William*, is this *Blanch*
 or no? 95
 You know her if you see her, I am sure.

William. *Zweno*, I was deceiued, yea
 vtterly deceiued;

Yet this is shee: this same is Ladie *Blanch*.
 And for mine error, here I am content
 To do whatsoever *Zweno* shall set downe. 100
 Ah, cruell *Mariana*, thus to vse
 The man which loued and honored thee with
 his heart!

Mariana. When first I came into your
 highnes court,
 And *William* often importing me of loue,
 I did deuise, to ease the grieve your daughter
 did sustain, 105
 Shee should meete Sir *William* masked, as I
 it were.

This put in prooffe did take so good effect,
 As yet it seemes his grace is not resolued,
 But it was I which he conueid awaie.

William. May this be true? It cannot be
 but true. 110

Was it Ladie *Blanch* which I conueid awaie?
 Vnconstant *Martana*, thus to deale
 With him which ment to thee nought but faith!

Blanch. Pardon, deere father, my folles
 that are past,

Wherein I haue neglected my dutie, 115
 Which I in reuerence ought to shew your
 grace;

For, led by loue, I thus haue gone astray,
 And now repent the errors I was in.

Zweno. Stand vp, deare daughter: though
 thy fault deserues

For to be punisht in the extremest sort, 120
 Yet loue, that couers multitude of sinns,
 Makes loue in parents winke at childrens faults.
 Sufficeeth, *Blanch*, thy father loues thee so,
 Thy follies past he knowes, but will not know.
 And here, Duke *William*, take my daughter
 to thy wife, 125

For well I am assured she loues thee well.

William. A proper coniun(c)tion! as who
 should saie,

Lately come out of the fyre,
 I would goe thrust my selfe into the flame.
 Let Maistres nice goe Saint it where she list, 130
 And coyly quaint it with dissembling face.
 I hold in scorne the fooleries that they vse:
 I being free, will neuer subiect my selfe
 To any such as shee is vnderneath the Sunne.

Zweno. Refusest thou to take my daughter
 to thy wife? 135

I tel thee, Duke, this rash deniall may bring
 More mischief on thee then thou canst
 auoide.

William. Conseit hath wrought such gene-
 rall dislike,

Through the false dealing of *Mariana*,
 That vtterly I doe abhorre their sex. 140

They are all disloyall, vnconstant, all vnjust:
 Who tryes as I haue tryed, and findes as I haue
 founde,

Will saie thers no such creatures on the
 ground.

Blanch. Vnconstant Knight, though some
 deserue no trust,

Thers others faithfull, louing, loyall, & iust.

*Enter to them Valingford with Em and the
 Miller, and Mountney, and Manuile, and
 Elner.*

Willi. How now, Lord *Valingford*, what
 makes these women here? 146

Valing. Here be two women, may it please
 your grace,

That are contracted to one man, and are
 In strife whether shall haue him to their hus-
 band. 149

William. Stand forth, women, and saie,
 To whether of you did he first giue his faith.

Em. To me, forsooth.

Elner. To me, my gracious Lord.

William. Speak, *Manuile*: to whether didst
 thou giue thy faith?

88 hightnes Q 1 92 Ends base Qq 97 WP set
Zweno in a line by itself 104 oft importing con.
Else 112-13 *Dir.* *Mariana* Qq: corr. D 115 my
 Q 2: me Q 1: thus my D

136 Ends deniall Qq: corr. D 142 Two lines Qq,
dir. after tryed 148 Line ends man Qq

Manuile. To saie the troth, this maide had
first my loue. 155

Elnor. Yea, *Manuile*, but therewas no wit-
nesse by.

Em. Thy conscience, *Manuile*, is a hundred
witnesses.

Elnor. Shee hath stolne a conscience to
serue her owne turne; but you are deceiued,
yfaith, he will none of you. 160

Manuile. In deede, dred Lord, so deere
I held her loue

As in the same I put my whole delight;
But some impediments, which at that instant
happed,

Made me forsake her quite;
For which I had her fathers franke consent. 165

William. What were the impediments?

Manuile. Why, shee could neither heare
nor see.

William. Now shee doth both. Mayden,
how were you cured?

Em. Pardon, my Lord, Ile tell your grace
the troth,

Be it not imputed to mee as discredite. 170
I loued this *Manuile* so much, that still my
thought,

When he was absent, did present to mee
The forme and feature of that countenance
Which I did shrine an ydoll in mine heart.

And neuer could I see a man, methought, 175
That equall *Manuile* in my partiall eye.

Nor was there any loue betweene vs lost,
But that I held the same in high regard,

Vntill repaire of some vnto our house,
Of whome my *Manuile* grewe thus ielous: 180

As if he tooke exception I vouchsafed
To heare them speake, or saw them when they
came:

On which I straight tooke order with my selfe,
To voide the scrupule of his conscience,

By counterfainting that I neither sawe nor
heard, 185

Any wayes to rid my hands of them.

All this I did to keepe my *Manuile*s loue,
Which he vnkindly seekes for to rewarde.

Manuile. And did my *Em*, to keepe her
faith with mee, 189

Dissemble that shee neither heard nor sawe?
Pardon me, sweet *Em*, for I am onely thine.

Em. Lay off thy hands, disloyall as thou
art!

Nor shalt thou haue possession of my loue,
That canst so finely shift thy matters off.

Put case I had beene blinde, and could not
see— 195

158-60 Verse Qq, dir. after turne 171 me
thought Qq

As often times such visitations falles

That pleaseth God, which all things doth dis-
pose—

Shouldst thou forsake mee in regard of that?
I tell thee *Manuile*, hadst thou beene blinde,

Or deafe, or dumbe, or else what impediments
might 200

Befall to man, *Em* would haue loued and kept,
And honoured thee: yea begde, if wealth had

faylde,

For thy releefe.

Manuile. Forgiue mee, sweete *Em*.

Em. I do forgiue thee, with my heart, 205
And will forget thee too, if case I can:

But neuer speake to mee, nor seeme to know
mee.

Manuile. Then farewell, frost! Well fare
a wench that will!

Now, *Elnor*, I am thine owne, my gyrl.

Elnor. Mine, *Manuile*? thou neuer shalt be
myne. 210

I so detest thy villanie,

That whilst I liue I will abhor thy company.

Manuile. Is it come to this? Of late I had
choyce of twaine,

On either side, to haue me to her husband,
And now am vtterly reiected of them both. 215

Valingford. My Lord, this gentleman, when
time was,

Stood some-thing in our light,

And now I thinke it not amisse

To laugh at him that sometime scorned at vs.

Mowntney. Content my Lord, inuent the
forme. 220

Valingford. Then thus.—

William. I see that women are not generall
euils,

Blanch is faire: Methinkes I see in her

A modest countenance, a heauenly blush.

Zweno, receiue a reconciled foe, 225

Not as thy friend, but as thy sonne in law,

If so that thou be thus content.

Zweno. I ioy to see your grace so tractable.

Here, take my daughter *Blanch*;

And after my deasease the Denmark crowne.

William. Now, sir, how stands the case
with you? 231

Manuile. I partly am perswaded as your
grace is,

My lord, he is best at ease that medleth least.

Valingford. Sir, may a man

Be so bolde as to craue a word with you? 235

200 Ends impediments Qq 208 Two lines Qq, dir.
after frost farewell a wench WP 221-78 Elze pro-
poses the following plausible alteration in the succession
of lines: 221, 234-54, 231-3, 222-30, 255-78 231 Ends
bolde Qq

Manuile. Yea, two or three: what are they?

Valingford. I say, this maide will haue thee to her husband.

Mountney. And I say this: and therof will I lay

An hundred pound.

Valingf. And I say this: whereon I will lay as much. 240

Manuile. And I say neither: what say you to that?

Mountney. If that be true, then are we both deceiued.

Manuile. Why, it is true, and you are both deceiued.

Marques. In mine eyes this is the proprest wench;

Might I aduise thee, take her vnto thy wife.

Zweno. It seemes to me, shee hath refused him. 246

Marques. Why, theres the spite.

Zweno. If one refuse him, yet may he haue the other.

Marques. He will aske but her good will, and all her friends.

Zweno. Might I aduise thee, let them both alone. 250

Manuile. Yea, thats the course, and thereon wil I stand.

Such idle loue hencefoorth I will detest.

Valingford. The Foxe will eat no grapes, and why?

Mountney. I know full well, because they hang too hye.

William. And may it be a Millers daughter by her birth? 255

I cannot thinke but shee is better borne.

238-9 One line Qq

Valingford. Sir *Thomas Goddard* hight this reuerent man

Famed for his vertues, and his good successe: Whose fame hath beene renowned through the world.

William. Sir *Thomas Goddard*, welcome to thy Prince; 260

And, faire *Em*, frolike with thy good father; As glad am I to finde Sir *Thomas Goddard*, As good Sir *Edmund Treford*, on the plaines: He like a sheepeheard, and thou our countrie Miller.

Miller. And longer let not *Goddard* liue a day 265

Then he in honour loues his soueraigne.

William. But say, Sir *Thomas*, shall I giue thy daughter?

Miller. *Goddard*, and all that he hath, Doth rest at the pleasure of your Maiestie.

William. And what sayes *Em* to louely *Valingford*? 270

It seemde he loued you well, that for your sake

Durst leaue his King.

Em. *Em* restes at the pleasure of your highnes:

And would I were a wife for his desert.

William. Then here, Lord *Valingford*, receiue faire *Em*. 275

Here take her, make her thy espoused wife.

Then goe we in, that preparation may be made,

To see these nuptials solely performed.

[*Exeunt all. Sound drummes and Trumpets.*]

FINIS

263 Sir Thomas WP 268 Sir Thomas Goddard
Simp. 271-2 Div. after well Qq 275 Two lines Qq,
div. after Valingford

THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN:

Presented at the Blackfriars
by the Kings Maiesties servants,
with great applause:

Written by the memorable Worthies
of their time;

{Mr. *John Fletcher*, and} Gent.
{Mr. *William Shakspeare*.}



Printed at *London* by *Tho. Cotes*, for *John Waterſon*:
and are to be ſold at the ſigne of the *Crowne*
in *Pauls Church-yard*. 1634.

<i>Q</i>	= Quarto of 1634
<i>F</i>	= (Second) Folio Beaumont and Fletcher, 1679
<i>Tonson</i>	= Tonson's ed., 1711
<i>Sew.</i>	= Seward, 1750
<i>Sy.</i>	= Sympson, <i>ibid.</i>
<i>Th</i>	= Theobald, <i>ibid.</i>
<i>Heath</i>	= H.'s MS. notes, quoted by Dyce
<i>Colman</i>	= Colman's ed., 1778
<i>Mason</i>	= M.'s comments, 1798
<i>Weber</i>	= W.'s ed., 1812
<i>Kn.</i>	= Knight, 1839-41 (and later edd.)
<i>Dyce</i>	= Dyce's edition, 1846 (and later edd.)
<i>S</i>	= Simms, 1848
<i>T</i>	= Tyrrell, 1851
<i>Walker</i>	= W.'s Critical Exam., 1860
<i>Sk.</i>	= Skeat, 1875
<i>Litt.</i>	= Littledale, 1876
<i>Col.</i>	= Collier, 1878
<i>Herford</i>	= 'Temple Dramatists' ed., 1897
<i>Daniel</i>	= Mr. P. A. Daniel's conjectures
<i>pr. ed.</i>	= present editor

THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN

(The Persons represented in the Play.

Hymen,
Theseus,
Hippolita, } *Bride and Sister to Theseus*¹
Emelia,
Nymphs,
Three Queens,
Three valiant Knights,

Palamon } *The two Noble Kinsmen, in love*
Arcite } *with fair Emelia*
Perithous,
Jaylor,
His Daughter, *in love with Palamon*
Countrymen,
Wenches,
A Taborer,

Gerrold, A Schoolmaster.)²

PROLOGVE.

[Florish.]

New Playes, and Maydenheads, are neare a
kin,
Much follow'd both, for both much mony g'yn,
If they stand sound, and well: And a good Play
(Whose modest Sceanes blush on his marriage

day,
And shake to loose his honour) is like hir 5
That after holy Tye and first nights stir
Yet still is Modestie, and still retains
More of the maid to sight, than Husbands
paines;

We pray our Play may be so; For I am sure
It has a noble Breeder, and a pure, 10
A learned, and a Poet never went
More famous yet twixt Po and silver Trent:
Chaucer (of all admir'd) the Story gives,
There constant to Eternity it lives.

If we let fall the Noblesse of this, 15
And the first sound this child heare, be a hisse,
How will it shake the bones of that good man,
And make him cry from under ground, 'O fan
From me the willes chaffe of such a wrighter
That blasts my Bayes, and my fam'd workes
makes lighter 20

Then Robin Hood! ' This is the feare we bring;
For to say Truth, it were an endlesse thing,
And too ambitious, to aspire to him,
Weake as we are, and almost breathlesse swim
In this deepe water. Do but you hold out 25
Your helping hands, and we shall take about,
And something doe to save us: You shall heare
Sceanes, though below his Art, may yet appeare
Worth two houres travell. To his bones sweet
sleepe:

Content to you. If this play doe not keepe 30
A little dull time from us, we perceave
Our losses fall so thicke, we must needs leave.

[Florish.]

Actus Primus.

(SCENE I. Athens. Before a temple.)

Enter Hymen with a Torch burning: a Boy,
in a white Robe before singing, and strewing
Flowres: After Hymen, a Nimph, encompast in
her Tresses, bearing a wheaten Garland. Then
Theseus betweene two other Nimphs with
wheaten Chaplets on their heades. Then
Hippolita the Bride, lead by Pirithous, and
another holding a Garland over her head (her
Tresses likewise hanging.) After her Emilia
holding up her Traine. (Artesius and Atten-
dants.)

The Song, Musike.

Roses their sharpe spines being gon,
Not royall in their smels alone,
But in their hew.
Maiden Pinckes, of odour faint,
Dazies smel-lesse, yet most quaint 5
And sweet Time true.

Prim-rose first borne child of Ver,
Merry Spring times Herbinger,
With her bells dimme.
Oxlips, in their Cradles growing, 10
Mary-golds, on death beds blowing,
Larkes-heeles trymme.

All deere natures children sweete,
Ly fore Bride and Bridegroomes feete, [Strew
Blessing their sence. Flowers. 16
Not an angle of the aire,
Bird melodious, or bird faire,
Is absent hence.

The Crow, the saundrous Cuckoe, nor 20
The boding Raven, nor Chough hore
Nor chattring Pie,

Scene I. etc. Dyce S. D. led by Pirithous] lead by
Theseus Q. F. S. D. Artesius etc. add. Dyce 19 her
bells Q. hair-bells Sk. 16 Angel F. etc. 18 Is Q. F.
Be Stew. 20 Chough hore Sen. : Clough hee Q. F.

¹ Bride and Sister to] Sisters to F'

² Add. F'

*May on our Bridehouse pearch or sing,
Or with them any discord bring,
But from it fly.*

*Enter 3. Queenes in Blacke, with vailles staind,
with imperiall Crownes. The 1. Queene fals
downe at the foote of Theseus; The 2. fals
downe at the foote of Hypolita. The 3. before
Emilia.*

1. *Qu.* For pitties sake and true gentilities,
Heare, and respect me. 26

2. *Qu.* For your Mothers sake,
And as you wish your womb may thrive with
faire ones,
Heare and respect me.

3. *Qu.* Now for the love of him whom *Love*
hath markd 30

The honour of your Bed, and for the sake
Of cleere virginity, be Advocate
For us, and our distresses. This good deede
Shall raze you out o'th Booke of Trespasses
All you are set downe there. 35

Theseus. Sad Lady, rise.

Hypol. Stand up.

Emil. No knees to me.

What woman I may steed that is distrest,
Does bind me to her. 40

Thes. What's your request? Deliver you for
all.

1. *Qu.* We are 3. Queenes, whose Sover-
aignes fel before

The wrath of cruell *Creon*; who endured
The Beakes of Ravens, Tallents of the Knights,
And pecks of Crows, in the fowle feilds of
Thebs. 45

He will not suffer us to burne their bones,
To urne their ashes, nor to take th' offence
Of mortall loathsomenes from the blest eye
Of holy *Phœbus*, but infects the windes

With stench of our slaine Lords. O pittie,
Duke: 50

Thou purger of the earth, draw thy feard
Sword

That does good turnes to'th world; give us the
Bones

Of our dead Kings, that we may Chappell
them;

And of thy boundles goodnes take some note
That for our crowned heades we have no rooffe,
Save this which is the Lyons, and the Beares,
And vault to every thing. 57

Thes. Pray you, kneele not:

I was transported with your Speech, and
suffer'd

Your knees to wrong themselves; I have heard
the fortunes 60

43 endure *Dyce*, etc.

Of your dead Lords, which gives me such
lamenting

As wakes my vengeance, and revenge for'em.
King *Capaneus* was your Lord: the day

That he should marry you, at such a season,
As now it is with me, I met your Groome, 65

By *Marsis Altar*; you were that time faire,
Not *Iunos Mantle* fairer then your Tresses,
Nor in more bounty spread her. Your
wheaten wreathe

Was then nor threashd, nor blasted; Fortune
at you

Dimpled her Cheeke with smiles: *Hercules* our
kinesman 70

(Then weaker than your eies) laide by his
Club,

He tumbled downe upon his Nemean hide
And swore his sinews thawd: O greife, and
time,

Fearfull consumers, you will all devoure.

1. *Qu.* O, I hope some God, 75
Some God hath put his mercy in your man-
hood

Whereto heel infuse powre, and presse you
forth

Our undertaker.

Thes. O no knees, none, Widdow,
Vnto the Helmeted Belona use them, 80

And pray for me your Souldier.
Troubled I am. [turnes away.

2. *Qu.* Honoured *Hypolita*,
Most dreaded *Amazonian*, that hast slaine
The Sith-tuskd Bore; that with thy Arme as
strong 85

As it is white, wast neere to make the male
To thy Sex captive, but that this thy Lord,
Borne to uphold Creation in that honour
First nature stilde it in, shrunk thee into
The bownd thou wast ore-flowing, at once
subduing 90

Thy force, and thy affection: Soldiress
That equally canst poize sternenes with pittie,
Whom now I know hast much more power on
him

Then ever he had on thee, who ow'st his
strength

And his Love too, who is a Servant for 95
The Tenour of thy Speech: Deere Glasse of
Ladies,

Bid him that we, whom flaming war doth
scortch,

Vnder the shaddow of his Sword may coole us:
Require him he advance it ore our heades;
Speak't in a womans key: like such a woman

68 her om. *Sev.* 72 Nenuan *Q.* *F* 93 Whom
Q. Who *Dyce* 95 for] to *Sev.* 96 thy *Sev.* :
the *Q.* *F*

As any of us three; weepe ere you faile; 101
Lend us a knee;
But touch the ground for us no longer time
Then a Doves motion, when the head's pluckt
off:

Tell him if he i'th blood cizd field lay swolne,
Showing the Sun his Teeth, grinning at the
Moone, 106

What you would doe.

Hip. Poore Lady, say no more:
I had as leife trace this good action with you
As that whereto I am going, and never yet 110
Went I so willing way. My Lord is taken
Hart deepe with your distresse: Let him
consider:

He speake anon.

3. *Qu.* O my petition was [*kneele to Emilia.*
Set downe in yce, which by hot greefe un-
candied 115

Melts into drops, so sorrow, wanting forme,
Is prest with deeper matter.

Emilia. Pray stand up,
Your greefe is written in your cheeke.

3. *Qu.* O woe, 120
You cannot reade it there, there through my
teares—

Like wrinckled peobles in a glassie streame
You may behold 'em. Lady, Lady, alacke,
He that will all the Treasure know o'th earth
Must know the Center too; he that will fish
For my least minnow, let him lead his line 126
To catch one at my heart. O pardon me:
Extremity, that sharpens sundry wits,
Makes me a Foole.

Emili. Pray you say nothing, pray you: 130
Who cannot feele nor see the raine, being in't,
Knowes neither wet nor dry: if that you were
The ground-peece of some Painter, I would
buy you

T'instruct me gainst a Capitall greefe indeed—
Such heart peirc'd demonstration; but, alas,
Being a naturall Sifter of our Sex 136

Your sorrow beates so ardently upon me,
That it shall make a counter reflect gainst
My Brothers heart, and warme it to some
pitty,

Though it were made of stone: pray, have
good comfort. 140

Thes. Forward to'th Temple, leave not out
a Iot

O'th sacred Ceremony.

1. *Qu.* O, This Celebration
Will long last, and be more costely then

101-2 One line *Q, F* 111 willing, way *Q, F* 121
here through *Sew.* 122 glassy *Sew.*: glasse *Q*: glass
F 123 'em *Q, F*; it *Dyce* 144 long *Q, F*: longer
Sew.

Your Suppliants war: Remember that your
Fame 145

Knowles in the eare o'th world: what you doe
quickly

Is not done rashly; your first thought is more
Then others laboured meditate: your pre-
meditating

More then their actions: But, oh Iove! your
actions,

Soone as they mooves, as Asprayes doe the
fish, 150

Subdue before they touch: thinke, deere *Duke*,
thinke

What beds our slaine Kings have.

2. *Qu.* What greifes our beds,
That our deere Lords have none.

3. *Qu.* None fit for 'th dead: 155
Those that with Cordes, Knives, drams pre-
cipitance,

Wear of this worlds light, have to themselves
Beene deathes most horrid Agents, humane
grace

Affords them dust and shaddow.

1. *Qu.* But our Lords 160
Ly blissing for the visitating Sunne,
And were good Kings, when living.

Thes. It is true, and I will give you comfort,
To give your dead Lords graves: the which to
doe,

Must make some worke with *Creon.* 165

1. *Qu.* And that worke presents it selfe to'th
doing:

Now twill take forme, the heates are gone to
morrow.

Then, booteles toyle must recompence it selfe
With it's owne sweat; Now he's secure, 169
Not dreames we stand before your puissance
Wratching our holy begging in our eyes
To make petition cleere.

2. *Qu.* Now you may take him, drunke
with his victory.

3. *Qu.* And his Army full of Bread, and
sloth.

Thes. Artesius, that best knowest 175
How to draw out fit to this enterprise
The prim'st for this proceeding, and the
number

To carry such a businesse, forth and levy
Our worthiest Instruments, whilst we despatch
This grand act of our life, this daring deede
Of Fate in wedlocke. 181

1. *Qu.* Dowagers, take hands;
Let us be Widdowes to our woes: delay
Commends us to a famishing hope.

156 Drams, Precipitance *Sew.* 164 Ends graves *Q*
170 Not] Nor *Sew.* 182 Widdowes *Q*: wedded conj.

All. Farewell. 185

2. Qu. We come unseasonably: But when
could greefe

Cull forth, as unpang'd judgement can, fit'st
time

For best solicitation.

Thes. Why, good Ladies,
This is a service, whereto I am going, 190
Greater then any was; it more imports me
Then all the actions that I have foregone,
Or futurely can cope.

1. Qu. The more proclaiming
Our suit shall be neglected: when her Armes
Able to locke Iove from a Synod, shall 196
By warranting Moone-light corslet thee, oh,
when

Her twynning Cherries shall their sweetnes fall
Vpon thy tastfull lips, what wilt thou thinke
Of rotten Kings or blubberd Queenes, what
care 200

For what thou feelst not? what thou feelst
being able

To make Mars spurne his Drom. O, if thou
couch

But one night with her, every howre in't will
Take hostage of thee for a hundred, and 204
Thou shalt remember nothing more then what
That Banket bids thee too.

Hip. Though much unlike (Kneeling.)
You should be so transported, as much sorry
I should be such a Suitour; yet I thinke,
Did I not by th'abstaying of my joy, 210
Which breeds a deeper longing, cure their
surfeit

That craves a present medicine, I should plucke
All Ladies scandall on me. Therefore, Sir,
As I shall here make tryall of my prayres,
Either presuming them to have some force,
Or sentencing for ay their vigour dombe: 216
Prorogue this busines we are going about, and
hang

Your Sheild afore your Heart, about that
necke

Which is my ffee, and which I freely lend
To doe these poore Queenes service. 220

All Queens. Oh helpe now,
Our Cause cries for your knee.

Emil. If you grant not (Kneeling.)
My Sister her petition in that force,
With that Celerity and nature, which 225
Shee makes it in, from henceforth ile not dare
To aske you any thing, nor be so hardy
Ever to take a Husband.

Thes. Pray stand up.

I am entreating of my selfe to doe 230
That which you kneele to have me. *Pyrithous*,
Leade on the Bride; get you and pray the
Gods

For successe, and returne; omit not any
thing

In the pretended Celebration. Queenes, 234
Follow your Soldier. As before, hence you
(to *Artesius*)

And at the banckes of Aulis meete us with
The forces you can raise, where we shall finde
The moytie of a number, for a busines
More bigger look't. Since that our Theame is
haste,

I stamp this kisse upon thy currant lippe; 240
Sweete, keepe it as my Token. Set you for-
ward,

For I will see you gone.

[*Exeunt towards the Temple.*]

Farewell, my beauteous Sister: *Pyrithous*,
Keepe the feast full, bate not an howre on't.

Pirithous. Sir, 245
Ile follow you at heeles; The Feasts solempnity
Shall want till your returne.

Thes. Cosen, I charge you
Boudge not from Athens; We shall be re-
turning

Ere you can end this Feast, of which, I pray
you, 250

Make no abatement; once more, farewell all.
1. Qu. Thus do'st thou still make good the
tongue o'th world.

2. Qu. And earnst a Deity equal with Mars.

3. Qu. If not above him, for
Thou being but mortall makest affections bend
To Godlike honours; they themselves, some
say, 256

Grone under such a Mastry.

Thes. As we are men,
Thus should we doe; being sensually subdued,
We loose our humane tytle. Good cheere,
Ladies. [Florish.]

Now turne we towards your Comforts. 261
[*Exeunt.*]

Scæna 2. (Thebs).

Enter *Palamon*, and *Arcite*.

Arcite. Deere *Palamon*, deerer in love then
Blood

And our prime Cosen, yet unhardned in
The Crimes of nature; Let us leave the Citty
Thebs, and the temptings in't, before we
further

186 We] Ye *Herford* 191 was Q, F: war *Scit*.
198 twinning *Th.* 207 unlike Q, F, etc.: unliking
MS. correction in *Iamb's* copy of F 207, 223 S. D.
add, *Dyce*

235 S. D. add, *Dyce* 236 Aulis *Th.*: Anly Q, F
241 my] a *Herford* 242 om, *Herford* 247 want]
wait *Scit.* S. D. Thebs add, *Scit.*

Sully our glosse of youth: 5
 And here to keepe in abstinence we shame
 As in Incontinence; for not to swim
 I'th aide o'th Current were almost to sincke,
 At least to frustrate striving, and to follow
 The common Streame, twold bring us to an
 Edy 10
 Where we should turne or drowne; if labour
 through,
 Our gaine but life, and weakenes.

Pal. Your advice
 Is ride up with example: what strange ruins
 Since first we went to Schoole, may we per-
 ceive 15

Walking in Thebs? Skars, and bare weedes
 The gaine o'th Martialist, who did propound
 To his bold ends honour, and golden Ingots,
 Which though he won, he had not, and now
 flurtd

By peace for whom he fought: who then shall
 offer 20

To *Marsis* so scornd *Altar*? I doe bleede
 When such I meete, and wish great *Iuno*
 would

Resume her ancient fit of *Ielouzie*
 To get the Soldier worke, that peace might
 purge

For her repletion, and retaine anew 25
 Her charitable heart now hard, and harsher
 Then strife or war could be.

Arcite. Are you not out?
 Meete you no ruine but the Soldier in
 The Cranckes and turnes of Thebs? you did
 begin 30

As if you met decacies of many kindes:
 Perceive you none, that doe arowse your pitty
 But th'un-considerd Soldier?

Pal. Yes, I pitty 34
 Decacies where ere I finde them, but such most
 That, sweating in an honourable Toyle,
 Are paid with yce to coole 'em.

Arcite. Tis not this
 I did begin to speake of: This is vertue
 Of no respect in Thebs; I spake of Thebs 40
 How dangerous if we will keepe our Honours,
 It is for our resyding, where every evill
 Hath a good cullor; where every seeming
 good's

A certaine evill, where not to be ev'n Iumpe
 As they are, here were to be strangers, and 45
 Such things to be, meere Monsters.

Pal. Tis in our power,
 (Vnlesse we feare that Apes can Tutor's) to
 Be Masters of our manners: what neede I
 Affect anothers gate, which is not catching 50

8 aide] Head conj. *Th.* 25 retaine *Q. F.*: reclaim
 conj. *Heath*: regain conj. *Sk.* 40 speak *Weber*

Where there is faith, or to be fond upon
 Anothers way of speech, when by mine owne
 I may be reasonably conceiv'd; sav'd too,
 Speaking it truly? why am I bound
 By any generous bond to follow him 55
 Followes his Taylor, haply so long untill
 The follow'd make pursuit? or let me know,
 Why mine owne Barber is unblest, with him
 My poore Chinne too, for tis not Cizard iust
 To such a Favorites glasse: What Cannon is
 there 60

That does command my Rapier from my hip
 To dangle't in my hand, or to go tip toe
 Before the streete be foule? Either I am
 The fore-horse in the Teame, or I am none
 That draw i'th sequent trace: these poore
 sleight sores 65
 Neede not a plantin; That which rips my
 bosome

Almost to'th heart's—
Arcite. Our Vncle *Creon*.

Pal. He,
 A most unbounded Tyrant, whose successes 70
 Makes heaven unfeard, and villany assured
 Beyond its power there's nothing, almost puts
 Faith in a feavour, and deifies alone
 Voluble chance; who onely attributes
 The faculties of other Instruments 75
 To his owne Nerves and act; Commands men
 service,

And what they winne in't, boot and glory; on(e)
 That faeres not to do harm; good, dares not;
 Let

The blood of mine that's sibbe to him be
 suckt

From me with Leeches; Let them breake and
 fall 80

Off me with that corruption.

Arc. Cleere spirited Cozen,
 Lets leave his Court, that we may nothing
 share

Of his lowd infamy: for our milke
 Will relish of the pasture, and we must 85
 Be vile or disobedient, not his kinsmen
 In blood, unlesse in quality.

Pal. Nothing truer:
 I thinke the Echoes of his shames have dea'ft
 The eares of heav'nly Iustice: widdows cryes
 Descend againe into their throates, and have
 not

Enter Valerius.

Due audience of the Gods.—*Valerius!* 92

Val. The King cals for you; yet be leaden
 footed,

66 hips *Q.*: tips *F.* 73 feavour] Fear conj. *Th.*
 77 boots and glories *Nicholson* on *Q. F.*: one *Ingram*:
 too *Seu.*

Till his great rage be off him. *Phebus*, when
He broke his whipstocke and exclaimd against
The Horses of the Sun, but whisperd too 96
The lowdenesse of his Fury.

Pal. Small windes shake him:

But whats the matter?

Val. Theseus (who where he threatens
appals,) hath sent 100

Deadly defiance to him, and pronounces
Ruine to Thebs; who is at hand to seale
The promise of his wrath.

Arc. Let him approach;

But that we feare the Gods in him, he brings
not 105

A jot of terrour to us; Yet what man

Thirds his owne worth (the case is each of
ours)

When that his actions dredg with minde
assurd

Tis bad he goes about?

Pal. Leave that unreasond. 110
Our services stand now for Thebs, not *Creon*,

Yet to be neutrall to him were dishonour;

Rebellious to oppose: therefore we must

With him stand to the mercy of our Fate,

Who hath bounded our last minute. 115

Arc. So we must.

Ist sed this warres a foote? or it shall be,
On faile of some condition?

Val. Tis in motion

The intelligence of state came in the instant
With the defier. 121

Pal. Lets to the king, who, were he

A quarter carrier of that honour which

His Enemy come in, the blood we venture

Should be as for our health, which were not
spent, 125

Rather laide out for purchase: but, alas,

Our hands advanc'd before our hearts, what
will

The fall o'th stroke doe damage?

Arci. Let th'event,

That never erring Arbitratour, tell us 130
When we know all our selves, and let us

follow

The becking of our chance. [*Exeunt.*]

Scæna 3. (*Before the gates of Athens.*)

Enter Pirithous, Hipolita, Emilia.

Pir. No further.

Hip. Sir, farewell; repeat my wishes

To our great Lord, of whose succes I dare not

Make any timerous question; yet I wish him

Exces and overflow of power, and't might be, 5

124 come Q: came F: comes Colman S. D.
Before etc. add. Dyce

To dure ill-dealing fortune: speede to him,
Store never hurtes good Gouvernours.

Pir. Though I know

His Ocean needes not my poore drops, yet
they

Must yield their tribute there. My precious
Maide, 10

Those best affections, that the heavens infuse
In their best temperd peices, keepe enthroand
In your deare heart.

Emil. Thanckes, Sir. Remember me
To our all royall Brother, for whose speede 15

The great Bellona ile sollicite; and

Since in our terrene State petitions are not

Without giftes understood, Ile offer to her

What I shall be advised she likes: our hearts
Are in his Army, in his Tent. 20

Hip. In's bosome:

We have bin Soldiers, and wee cannot weepe
When our Friends don their helmes, or put to

sea,

Or tell of Babes broachd on the Launce, or
women

That have sod their Infants in (and after eate
them) 25

The brine, they wept at killing 'em; Then if
You stay to see of us such Spincsters, we
Should hold you here for ever.

Pir. Peace be to you,

As I pursue this war, which shall be then 30
Beyond further requiring. [*Exit Pir.*]

Emil. How his longing

Followes his Friend! since his depart, his
sportes

Though craving seriousnes, and skill, past
slightly

His careles execution, where nor gaine 35

Made him regard, or losse consider; but

Playing one busines in his hand, another

Directing in his head, his minde, nurse equall

To these so diffing Twyns—have you observ'd
him,

Since our great Lord departed? 40

Hip. With much labour,

And I did love him fort: they two have Cabind

In many as dangerous, as poore a Corner,

Perill and want contending; they have skift

Torrents whose roring tyranny and power 45

I'th least of these was dreadfull, and they have

Fought out together, where Deaths-selfe was

lodgd,

Yet fate hath brought them off: Their knot
of love,

6 dure Q. F: dare conj. Sew. : cure conj. Sew. 37 one Mason,
sportes] imports conj. Coleridge

Heath : ore Q : o'er F. 46 least . . was Q, F: best
of Ships were conj. Sew. 47 Fought] Sought conj.
Litt.

Tide, weau'd, intangled, with so true, so long,

And with a finger of so deepe a cunning, 50
May be outworne, never undone. I thinke
Theseus cannot be umpire to himselfe,
Cleaving his conscience into twaine and doing
Each side like Iustice, which he loves best.

Emil. Doubtlesse 55
There is a best, and reason has no manners
To say it is not you: I was acquainted
Once with a time, when I enjoyd a Play-fellow;
You were at wars, when she the grave en-
richd,

Who made too proud the Bed, tooke leave o th
Moone 60

(Which then lookt pale at parting) when our
count

Was each eleven.

Hip. Twas *Flauia*(*n*a).

Emil. Yes.

You talke of *Pirithous* and *Theseus* love; 65
Theirs has more ground, is more maturely
seasond,

More buckled with strong Iudgement and their
needes

The one of th'other may be said to water

[2. *Hearses ready with Palamon: and
Arcite: the 3. Queenes. Theseus:
and his Lordes ready.*

Their intertangled rootes of love; but I
And shee I sigh and spoke of were things
innocent, 70

Lou'd for we did, and like the Elements
That know not what, nor why, yet doe effect
Rare issues by their operance, our soules
Did so to one another; what she lik'd,
Was then of me approov'd, what not, con-
demd, 75

No more arraignment; the flowre that I
would plucke

And put betweene my breasts (then but
beginning

To swell about the blossome) oh, she would
long

Till shee had such another, and commit it
To the like innocent Cradle, where *Phenix*
like 80

They dide in perfume: on my head no toy
But was her patterne; her affections (pretty,
Though, happely, her careles were) I followed
For my most serious decking; had mine eare

62 eleven *F.* etc.: a eleven *Q* 63 *Flauia Q*:
Flavina Soc. Cf. l. 95 68 ff. *S. D.* 2 *Hearses*..
ready (*prompter's marginal note*) after l. 63 *T* 77
breasts (then *pr. ed.*: breasts, oh (then *Q.* etc.
78 blossome) oh, she *pr. ed.*: blossome) she *Q.* etc.
83 her *Q.* *F.*: they *conj. Sg.*: hers *conj. Lamb* careles,
were *Q.* *F.*: careles wear *Cotman*

Stolne some new aire, or at adventure humd
on 85

From musicall Coynadge, why it was a note
Whereon her spirits would sojourne (rather
dwell on)

And sing it in her slumbers. This rehearsall
(Which ev'ry innocent wots well comes in
Like old importments bastard) has this end, 90
That the true love tweene Mayde, and mayde,
may be

More then in sex individuall.

Hip. Y'are out of breath
And this high speeded pace, is but to say
That you shall never like the Maide *Flavina* 95
Love any that's call'd Man.

Emil. I am sure I shall not.

Hip. Now, alacke, weake Sister,
I must no more beleve thee in this point
(Though in't I know thou dost beleve thy
selfe,) 100

Then I will trust a sickely appetite,
That loathes even as it longs; but, sure, my
Sister,

If I were ripe for your perswasion, you
Have saide enough to shake me from the
Arme 104

Of the all noble *Theseus*, for whose fortunes
I will now in, and kneele with great assurance,
That we, more then his *Pirothous*, possesse
The high throne in his heart.

Emil. I am not
Against your faith; yet I continew mine. 110
[*Exeunt. Cornets.*

Scæna 4. (A field before Thebes. Dead
bodies lying on the ground.)

A Battaille strooke within: Then a Retrait:
Florish. Then Enter *Theseus* (victor),
(*Herald and Attendants:*) the three *Queenes*
meete him, and fall on their faces before him.

1. *Qu.* To thee no starre be darke.

2. *Qu.* Both heaven and earth
Friend thee for ever.

3. *Qu.* All the good that may
Be wisd upon thy head, I cry Amen too't. 5
Thes. Th'imparciall Gods, who from the
mounted heavens

View us their mortall Heard, behold who erre,
And in their time chastice: goe and finde out
The bones of your dead Lords, and honour
them

85 on *Q.* *F.*: one *conj. Sew.* 86 misicall *Q* 89
every innocent *Lamb*: fury-innocent *Q*: surely In-
nocence *Su.* wots] wot I *Mason* 92 dividuall *Sew.*:
individuall *Q* 109 *Ends* faith *Q.* *F.*: corr. *Dyce*
S. D. A field etc. add. *Dyce* *S. D.* Herald etc.
add. *Dyce*

With treble Ceremonie; rather then a gap 10
Should be in their deere rights, we would
supply't.

But those we will depute, which shall invest
You in your dignities, and even each thing
Our hast does leave imperfect: So, adiew,
And heavens good eyes looke on you. What
are those? [Exeunt Queenes.

Herald. Men of great quality, as may be
judg'd 16

By their appointment; Some of Thebs have
told's

They are Sisters children, Nephewes to the
King.

Thes. By'th Helme of Mars, I saw them in
the war,

Like to a paire of Lions, smeard with prey, 20
Make lanes in troopes agast. I fixt my note
Constantly on them; for they were a marke
Worth a god's view: what prisoner was't that
told me

When I enquired their names?

Herald. Wi' leave, they'r called *Arcite* and
Palamon. 25

Thes. Tis right: those, those. They are
not dead?

Her. Nor in a state of life: had they bin
taken,

When their last hurts were given, twas
possible

[3. Hearses ready.

They might have bin recovered; Yet they
breathe

And haue the name of men. 30

Thes. Then like men use 'em.
The very lees of such (millions of rates)

Exceede the wine of others: all our Surgions
Convent in their behoofe; our richest balmes
Rather then niggard, waft: their lives con-
cerne us 35

Much more then Thebs is worth: rather then
have 'em

Freed of this plight, and in their morning
state

(Sound and at liberty) I would 'em dead;
But forty thousand fold we had rather have 'em

Prisoners to us then death. Beare 'em
speedily 40

From our kinde aire, to them unkinde, and
minister

What man to man may doe—for our sake
more,

11 Rites *Serv.*, etc. supply't *F*: suppl' it *Q* 20
mearl] some copies of *Q* (*Dyce's*, *Colman's*, *Daniel's*,
read succard 23 What was't that prisoner told
Dyce, etc. 25 Wi' leave *Dyce*: We leave *Q*, *F*:
With leave *Serv.*: We learn conj. *Heath*: We leave
Litt,

Since I have knowne frights, fury, friends
beheastes,

Loves provocations, zeale, a mistris Taske,
Desire of liberty, a feavour, madnes, 45
Hath set a marke which nature could not
reach too

Without some imposition: sicknes in will
Or wrestling strength in reason. For our
Love

And great *Appollos* mercy, all our best 49
Their best skill tender. Leade into the Citty,
Where having bound things scatterd, we will

post [Florish.
To Athens for(e) our Army [Exeunt. *Musicke*.

Scæna 5. (Another part of the same.)

Enter the Queenes with the Hearses of their
Knights, in a Funerall Solempny, &c.

Vrnes and odours bring away,
Vapours, sighes, darken the day;
Our dole more deadly lookes than dying;
Balmes, and Gummes, and heavy cheeres,
Sacred vials fill'd with teares, 5
And clamors through the wild ayre flying.

Come all sad and solempne Showes,
That are quick-eyd pleasures foes;
We convent nought else but woes.

We convent, &c.

3. *Qu.* This funeral path brings to your
housholds grave: 10

Ioy ceaze on you againe: peace sleepe with him.

2. *Qu.* And this to yours.

1. *Qu.* Yours this way: Heavens lend
A thousand differing waies to one sure end.

3. *Qu.* This world's a Citty full of straying
Streetes, 15

And Death's the market place, where each
one meetes. [Exeunt severally.

Actus Secundus.

Scæna 1. (Athens. A garden, with a
prison in the background.)

Enter Iailor, and Wooer.

Iailor. I may depart with little, while I
live; some thing I may cast to you, not much:
Alas, the Prison I keepe, though it be for
great ones, yet they seldome come; Before one
Salmon, you shall take a number of Minnowes.
I am given out to be better lyn'd then it can
appeare to me report is a true Speaker: I would

43 fight's fury *Dyce* 43-4 friends, beheastes,
Loves, provocations *Q*, *F* 44 zeal in a *Dyce* 52
for *Q*, *F*: fore *Serv.* *S. D.* Another etc. add. *Dyce*
S. D. Athens etc. add. *Dyce* 1-68 Verse *Q*, *F*

I were really that I am deliverd to be. Marry, what I have (be it what it will) I will assure upon my daughter at the day of my death. 10

Woos. Sir, I demaund no more then your owne offer, and I will estate your Daughter in what I have promised.

Tailor. Wel, we will talke more of this, when the solemnity is past. But have you a full promise of her? When that shall be seene, I tender my consent. 17

Enter Daughter.

Woos. I have Sir; here shee comes.

Tailor. Your Friend and I have chanced to name you here, upon the old busines: But no more of that now; so soone as the Court hurry is over, we will have an end of it: I'th meane time looke tenderly to the two Prisoners. I can tell you they are princes. 24

Daugh. These strewings are for their Chamber; tis pitty they are in prison, and twer pitty they should be out: I doe thinke they have patience to make any adversity asham'd; the prison it selfe is proud of 'em; and they have all the world in their Chamber.

Tailor. They are fam'd to be a paire of absolute men. 32

Daugh. By my troth, I think Fame but stammers 'em; they stand a greise above the reach of report.

Tail. I heard them reported in the Battaile to be the only doers. 37

Daugh. Nay, most likely, for they are noble sufferers; I mervaille how they would have lookd had they bene Victors, that with such a constant Nobility enforce a freedome out of Bondage, making misery their Mirth, and affliction a toy to jest at. 43

Tailor. Doe they so?

Daugh. It seemes to me they have no more sence of their Captivity, then I of ruling Athens: they eate well, looke merrily, discourse of many things, but nothing of their owne restraint, and disasters: yet sometime a divided sigh, martyrd as 'twer i'th deliverance, will breake from one of them; when the other presently gives it so sweete a rebuke, that I could wish my selfe a Sigh to be so chid, or at least a Sigher to be comforted.

Woos. I never saw 'em. 55

Tailor. The Duke himselfe came privately in the night,

Enter Palamon, and Arcite, above.

and so did they: what the reason of it is, I

S. D. after 16 Q 21 that. Now, Q: corr. Dyce
34 greise Q: grief F: Gree conj. Sen.

know not: Looke, yonder they are! that's *Arcite* lookes out. 60

Daugh. No, Sir, no, that's *Palamon*: *Arcite* is the lower of the twaine; you may perceive a part of him.

Tail. Goe too, leave your pointing; they would not make us their object; out of their sight. 66

Daugh. It is a holliday to looke on them: Lord, the diffrence of men! [*Exeunt.*]

Scæna 2. (*The prison*) *Enter Palamon, and Arcite in prison.*

Pal. How doe you, Noble Cosen?

Arcite. How doe you, Sir?

Pal. Why strong inough to laugh at misery, And beare the chance of warre, yet we are prisoners,

I feare, for ever, Cosen. 5

Arcite. I beleieve it, And to that destiny have patiently

Laide up my houre to come.

Pal. Oh Cosen *Arcite*,

Where is Thebs now? where is our noble Country? 10

Where are our friends, and kindreds? never more

Must we behold those comforts, never see The hardy youthes strive for the Games of honour

(Hung with the painted favours of their Ladies,

Like tall Ships under saile) then start among'st 'em 15

And as an Eastwind leave 'em all behinde us, Like lazy Clowdes, whilst *Palamon* and *Arcite*, Even in the wagging of a wanton leg

Out-strip the peoples praises, won the Garlands, 19

Ere they have time to wish 'em ours. O never Shall we two exercise, like Twyns of honour,

Our Armes againe, and feele our fyre horses Like proud Seas under us: our good Swords now (Better the red-eyd god of war nev'r wore)

Ravishd our sides, like age must run to rust, And decke the Temples of those gods that

hate us: 26

These hands shall never draw 'em out like lightning,

To blast whole Armies more.

Arcite. No, *Palamon*,

Those hopes are Prisoners with us; here we are 30

Scæna 2 *Dyce* continues Scene I *S. D.* The prison
add. pr. ed. 19? Out-strip. win 24 wore *Sen.*:
were Q, F: wave *Dyce* 25 Ravish'd *Sen.*: Bravishd
Q, F

And here the graces of our youthes must
wither

Like a too-timely Spring; here age must finde
us,

And, which is heaviest, *Palamon*, unmarried;
The sweete embraces of a loving wife,

Loden with kisses, armed with thousand Cupids
Shall never claspe our neckes, no issue know
us, 36

No figures of our selves shall we ev'r see,
To glad our age, and like young Eagles teach
'em

Boldly to gaze against bright armes, and say:
'Remember what your fathers were, and
conquer.' 40

The faire-eyd Maides, shall weepe our Banish-
ments,

And in their Songs, curse ever-blinded fortune,
Till shee for shame see what a wrong she has
done

To youth and nature. This is all our world;
We shall know nothing here but one another,
Heare nothing but the Clocke that tels our
woes. 46

The Vine shall grow, but we shall never see it:
Sommer shall come, and with her all delights;
But dead-cold winter must inhabite here still.

Pal. Tis too true, *Arcite*. To our Theban
hounds, 50

That shooke the aged Forrest with their
ecchoes,

No more now must we halloa, no more shake
Our pointed lavelyns, whilst the angry Swine
Flies like a parthian quiver from our rages,
Strucke with our well-steeld Darts: All valiant
uses 55

(The foode, and nourishment of noble mindes,)

In us two here shall perish; we shall die

(Which is the curse of honour) lastly

Children of greife, and Ignorance.

Arc. Yet, Cosen, 60

Even from the bottom of these miseries,

From all that fortune can inflict upon us,

I see two comforts rysing, two meere blessings,

If the gods please: to hold here a brave
patience,

And the enjoying of our greefes together. 65

Whilst *Palamon* is with me, let me perish

If I thinke this our prison.

Pala. Certainly,

Tis a maine goodnez, Cosen, that our fortunes

Were twyn'd together; tis most true, two
soules 70

Put in two noble Bodies—let 'em suffer

The gaulde of hazard, so they grow together—

58 lastly] lazily *Ser.* 64 please to hold's here :
conj. pr. ed. 70 twinn'd *Ser.*

Will never sincke; they must not, say they
could:

A willing man dies sleeping, and all's done.

Arc. Shall we make worthy uses of this
place 75

That all men hate so much?

Pal. How, gentle Cosen?

Arc. Let's thinke this prison holy sanc-
tuary,

To keepe us from corruption of worse men.

We are young and yet desire the waies of
honour, 80

That liberty and common Conversation,

The poynson of pure spirits, might like women

Wooe us to wander from. What worthy
blessing

Can be but our Imaginations

May make it ours? And heere being thus
together, 85

We are an endles mine to one another;

We are one anothers wife, ever begetting

New birthes of love; we are father, friends,
acquaintance;

We are, in one another, Families,

I am your heire, and you are mine: This
place 90

Is our Inheritance, no hard Oppressour

Dare take this from us; here, with a little
patience,

We shall live long, and loving: No surfeits
seeke us:

The hand of war hurts none here, nor the Seas

Swallow their youth: were we at liberty, 95

A wife might part us lawfully, or busines;

Quarrels consume us, Envy of ill men

Grave our acquaintance; I might sicken, Cosen,

Where you should never know it, and so
perish 99

Without your noble hand to close mine eies,

Or praiers to the gods: a thousand chaunces,

Were we from hence, would seaver us.

Pal. You have made me

(I thanke you, Cosen *Arcite*) almost wanton

With my Captivity: what a misery 105

It is to live abroad, and every where!

Tis like a Beast, me thinkes: I finde the Court
here—

I am sure, a more content; and all those
pleasures

That wooe the wils of men to vanity,

I see through now, and am sufficient 110

To tell the world, tis but a gaudy shaddow,

That old Time, as he passes by, takes with
him.

74 sseeping *Q* 98 Grave *Dyce*: Crave *Q*, *F*:
Reave *Ser.*: Craze *Th.*: Carve *Sy.*: Raze *Heath*:
Cleave *Mason*

What had we bin, old in the Court of *Creon*,
Where sin is Iustice, lust and ignorance
The vertues of the great ones! *Cosen Arcite*,
Had not the loving gods found this place for
us, 116

We had died as they doe, ill old men, unwept,
And had their Epitaphes, the peoples Curses:
Shall I say more?

Arc. I would heare you still. 120

Pal. Ye shall.

Is there record of any two that lov'd

Better then we doe, *Arcite*?

Arc. Sure, there cannot.

Pal. I doe not thinke it possible our friend-
ship 125

Should ever leave us.

Arc. Till our deathees it cannot;

Enter Emilia and her woman (below).

And after death our spirits shall be led
To those that love eternally. Speake on, Sir.

Emil. This garden has a world of pleasures
in't. 130

What Flowre is this?

Wom. Tis calld Narcissus, Madam.

Emil. That was a faire Boy, certaine, but
a foole,

To love himselfe; were there not maides
enough?

Arc. Pray forward. 135

Pal. Yes.

Emil. Or were they all hard hearted?

Wom. They could not be to one so faire.

Emil. Thou wouldst not.

Wom. I thinke I should not, Madam. 140

Emil. That's a good wench:

But take heede to your kindnes though.

Wom. Why, Madam?

Emil. Men are mad things.

Arcite. Will ye goe forward, Cosen? 145

Emil. Canst not thou worke such flowers
in silke, wench?

Wom. Yes.

Emil. Ile have a gowne full of 'em, and of
these;

This is a pretty colour, wilt not doe

Rarely upon a Skirt, wench? 150

Wom. Deinty, Madam.

Arc. Cosen, Cosen, how doe you, Sir?

Why, *Palamon*?

Pal. Never till now I was in prison, *Arcite*.

Arc. Why whats the matter, Man?

Pal. Behold, and wonder. 155

By heaven, shee is a Goddess.

Arcite. Ha.

Pal. Doe reverence. She is a Goddess, *Arcite*.

Emil. Of all Flowres, me thinkes a Rose is
best.

Wom. Why, gentle Madam? 160

Emil. It is the very Embleme of a Maide.

For when the west wind courts her gently,
How modestly she blowes, and paints the Sun,
With her chaste blushes! When the North
comes neere her,

Rude and impatient, then, like Chastity, 165
Shee lockes her beauties in her bud againe,
And leaves him to base briers.

Wom. Yet, good Madam,
Sometimes her modesty will blow so far
She fals for't: a Mayde, 170
If shee have any honour, would be loth
To take example by her.

Emil. Thou art wanton.

Arc. She is wondrous faire.

Pal. She is all the beauty extant. 175

Emil. The Sun grows high, lets walk in:
keep these flowers;

Weele see how neere Art can come neere
their colours.

I am wondrous merry hearted, I could laugh
now.

Wom. I could lie downe, I am sure.

Emil. And take one with you? 180

Wom. That's as we bargain, Madam.

Emil. Well, agree then.

[*Exeunt Emilia and woman.*]

Pal. What thinke you of this beauty?

Arc. Tis a rare one.

Pal. Is't but a rare one? 185

Arc. Yes, a matchles beauty.

Pal. Might not a man well lose himselfe
and love her?

Arc. I cannot tell what you have done, I
have;

Beshrew mine eyes for't: now I feele my
Shackles.

Pal. You love her, then? 190

Arc. Who would not?

Pal. And desire her?

Arc. Before my liberty.

Pal. I saw her first.

Arc. That's nothing. 195

Pal. But it shall be.

Arc. I saw her too.

Pal. Yes, but you must not love her.

Arc. I will not as you doe, to worship her,
As she is heavenly, and a blessed Goddess; 200
I love her as a woman, to enjoy her:
So both may love.

Pal. You shall not love at all.

162 gently *Scr.*

Arc. Not love at all!
Who shall deny me? 205

Pal. I, that first saw her; I, that tooke
possession

First with mine eyes of all those beauties
In her reveald to mankind: if thou lou'st her,
Or entertain'st a hope to blast my wishes,
Thou art a Traytour, *Arcite*, and a fellow 210
False as thy Title to her: friendship, blood,
And all the tyes betweene us I disclaime,
If thou once thinke upon her.

Arc. Yes, I love her,
And if the lives of all my name lay on it, 215
I must doe so; I love her with my soule:
If that will lose ye, farewell, *Palamon*;
I say againe, I love, and in loving her main-
taine

I am as worthy and as free a lover,
And have as just a title to her beauty 220
As any *Palamon* or any living
That is a mans Sonne.

Pal. Have I cald thee friend?

Arc. Yes, and have found me so; why are
you mov'd thus?
Let me deale coldly with you: am not I 225
Part of your blood, part of your soule? you
have told me

That I was *Palamon*, and you were *Arcite*.

Pal. Yes.

Arc. Am not I liable to those affections,
Those joyes, greifes, angers, feares, my friend
shall suffer? 230

Pal. Ye may be.

Arc. Why, then, would you deale so
cunningly,
So strangely, so vnlike a noble kinsman,
To love alone? speake truly: doe you thinke
me

Vnworthy of her sight? 235

Pal. No; but unjust,
If thou pursue that sight.

Arc. Because an other
First sees the Enemy, shall I stand still
And let mine honour downe, and never
charge? 240

Pal. Yes, if he be but one.

Arc. But say that one
Had rather combat me?

Pal. Let that one say so,
And use thy freedome; els if thou pursuest
her, 245
Be as that cursed man that hates his Country,
A branded villaine.

Arc. You are mad.

Pal. I must be, 249
Till thou art worthy, *Arcite*; it concernes me,

207 Ends her *See*.

226 you blood Q

And in this madnes, if I hazard thee
And take thy life, I deale but truly.

Arc. Fie, Sir,
You play the Childe extreemely: I will love her,
I must, I ought to doe so, and I dare; 255
And all this justly.

Pal. O that now, that now
Thy false-selfe and thy friend had but this
fortune,

To be one howre at liberty, and graspe
Our good Swords in our hands! I would
quickly teach thee 260

What 'twere to filch affection from another:
Thou art baser in it then a Cutpurse;
Put but thy head out of this window more,
And as I have a soule, Ile naile thy life too't.

Arc. Thou dar'st not, foole, thou canst not,
thou art feeble. 265

Put my head out? Ile throw my Body out,
And leape the garden, when I see her next

Enter Keeper.

And pitch between her armes to anger thee.

Pal. No more; the keeper's comming; I
shall live 269

To knocke thy braines out with my Shackles.

Arc. Doe.

Keeper. By your leave, Gentlemen —

Pala. Now, honest keeper?

Keeper. Iord *Arcite*, you must presently
to'th Duke;

The cause I know not yet. 275

Arc. I am ready, keeper.

Keeper. Prince *Palamon*, I must awhile
bereave you

Of your faire Cosens Company.

[*Exeunt Arcite, and Keeper.*]

Pal. And me too,

Even when you please, of life. Why is he
sent for? 280

It may be he shall marry her; he's goodly,
And like enough the Duke hath taken notice
Both of his blood and body: But his falsehood!

Why should a friend be treacherous? If that
Get him a wife so noble, and so faire, 285

Let honest men ne're love againe. Once
more

I would but see this faire One. Blessed Garden,
And fruite, and flowers more blessed, that
still blossom

As her bright eies shine on ye! would I were,
For all the fortune of my life hereafter, 290
Yon little Tree, yon blooming Apricocke;
How I would spread, and fling my wanton
armes

In at her window; I would bring her fruite

261 tw'er Q

Fit for the Gods to feed on: youth and pleasure
Still as she tasted should be doubled on her,
And if she be not heavenly, I would make her
So neere the Gods in nature, they should
feare her, 297

Enter Keeper.

And then I am sure she would love me. How
now, keeper,
Wher's *Arcite*?

Keeper. Banishd: Prince *Pirithous* 300
Obtained his liberty; but never more
Vpon his oth and life must he set foote
Vpon this Kingdome.

Pal. Hees a blessed man!
He shall see Thebs againe, and call to Armes
The bold yong men, that, when he bids 'em
charge, 306

Fall on like fire: *Arcite* shall have a Fortune,
If he dare make himselfe a worthy Lover,
Yet in the Feild to strike a battle for her;
And if he lose her then, he's a cold Coward;
How bravely may he beare himselfe to win
her 311

If he be noble *Arcite*—thousand waies.
Were I at liberty, I would doe things
Of such a vertuous greatnes, that this Lady,
This blushing virgine, should take manhood
to her 315

And seeke to ravish me.

Keeper. My Lord for you

I have this charge too—

Pal. To discharge my life?

Keep. No, but from this place to remooove
your Lordship: 320

The windowes are too open.

Pal. Devils take 'em,

That are so envious to me! pre'thee kill me.

Keep. And hang for't afterward.

Pal. By this good light, 325

Had I a sword I would kill thee.

Keep. Why, my Lord?

Pal. Thou bringst such pelting scurvy
news continually

Thou art not worthy life. I will not goe.

Keep. Indeede, you must, my Lord. 330

Pal. May I see the garden?

Keep. Noe.

Pal. Then I am resolut, I will not goe.

Keep. I must constraine you then: and for
you are dangerous,

Ile clap more yrons on you. 335

Pal. Doe, good keeper.

Ile shake 'em so, ye shall not sleepe;

Ile make ye a new Morrisse: must I goe?

Keep. There is no remedy.

319 life. *Q*

Pal. Farewell, kinde window. 340
May rude winde never hurt thee. O, my
Lady,
If ever thou hast felt what sorrow was,
Dreame how I suffer. Come; now bury me.
[*Exeunt Palamon, and Keeper.*]

Scæna 3. (*The country near Athens.*)

Enter Arcite.

Arcite. Banishd the kingdome? tis a benefit,
A mercy I must thanke 'em for, but banishd
The free enjoying of that face I die for,
Oh twas a studdied punishment, a death
Beyond Imagination: Such a vengeance 5
That, were I old and wicked, all my sins
Could never plucke upon me. *Palamon*,
Thou ha'st the Start now, thou shalt stay and
see

Her bright eyes breake each morning gainst
thy window,

And let in life into thee; thou shalt feede 10

Vpon the sweetenes of a noble beauty,

That nature nev'r exceeded, nor nev'r shall:

Good gods! what happines has *Palamon*!

Twenty to one, hee'le come to speake to her,

And if she be as gentle as she's faire, 15

I know she's his; he has a Tongue will tame

Tempests, and make the wild Rockes wanton.

Come what can come,

The worst is death; I will not leave the King-
dome.

I know mine owne is but a heape of ruins, 20

And no redresse there; if I goe, he has her.

I am resolu'd an other shap shall make me,

Or end my fortunes. Either way, I am happy:

Ile see her, and be neere her, or no more.

*Enter 4. Country people, & one with a
garlond before them.*

1. My Masters, ile be there, that's certaine

2. And Ile be there. 26

3. And I.

4. Why, then, have with ye, Boyes; Tis
but a chiding.

Let the plough play to day, ile tick'lt out
Of the Iades tiales to morrow. 30

1. I am sure

To have my wife as jealous as a Turkey:
But that's all one; ile goe through, let her
mumble.

2. Clap her aboard to morrow night, and
stoa her,

And all's made up againe. 35

3. I, doe but put a feskue in her fist, and
you shall see her

S. D. The . . Athens add. Dyce

Take a new lesson out, and be a good wench.
Doe we all hold against the Maying?

1. Hold? what should aile us?

3. *Arcas* will be there. 40

2. And *Sennois*.

And *Rycas*, and 3. better lads nev'r danc'd
Under green Tree. And yee know what
wenches: ha?

But will the dainty Domine, the Schoole-
master,

Keep touch, you think? for he do's all,
ye know. 45

3. Hee'l eate a hornebooke ere he faile:
goe too, the matter's too farre driven betweene
him and the Tanners daughter, to let slip now,
and she must see the Duke, and she must
daunce too. 50

4. Shall we be lusty?

2. All the Boyes in Athens blow wind i'th
breach on's, and heere ile be and there ile be,
for our Towne, and here againe, and there
again: ha, *Arcas*, heigh for the weavers. 55

1. This must be done i'th woods.

4. O, pardon me.

2. By any meanes, our thing of learning
saies so:

Where he himselve will edifie the Duke
Most pariously in our behalves: hees excellent
i'th woods; 60

Bring him to'th plaine, his learning makes no
cry.

3. Weele see the sports, then; every man
to's Tackle:

And, Sweete Companions, lets rehearse by any
meanes,

Before the Ladies see us, and doe sweetly,
And God knows what May come on't. 65

4. Content; the sports once ended, wee'l
performe.

Away, Boyes and hold.

Arc. By your leaves, honest friends: pray
you, whither goe you? 69

4. Whither? why, what a question's that?

Arc. Yes, tis a question, to methat know not.

3. To the Games, my Friend.

2. Where were you bred, you know it not?

Arc. Not farre, Sir,

Are there such Games to day? 75

1. Yes, marry, are there:

And such as you neuer saw; The Duke him-
selfe

Will be in person there.

Arc. What pastimes are they?

2. Wrestling, and Running.—Tis a pretty
Fellow. 80

3. Thou wilt not goe along?

Arc. Not yet, Sir.

4. Well, Sir,

Take your owne time: come, Boyes.

1. My minde misgives me; 85

This fellow has a veng'ance tricke o'th hip:

Marke how his Bodi's made for't

2. Ile be hangd, though,

If he dare venture; hang him, plumb porridge,
He wrastle? he rost eggs! Come, lets be gon,
Lads. [Exeunt 4.]

Arc. This is an offord opportunity 91

I durst not wish for. Well I could have
wrestled,

The best men call'd it excellent, and run—

Swifter the winde upon a feild of Corne
(Curling the wealthy eares) never flew: Ile
venture, 95

And in some poore disguise be there; who
knowes

Whether my browes may not be girt with
garlands?

And happines preferre me to a place,
Where I may ever dwell in sight of her.

[Exit *Arcite*.]

Scæna 4. (*Athens.* A room in the prison.)

Enter *Iailors* Daughter alone.

Daugh. Why should I love this Gentle-
man? Tis odds

He never will affect me; I am base,
My Father the meane Keeper of his Prison,
And he a prince: To marry him is hopelesse;
To be his whore is witles. Out upon't, 5
What pushes are we wenchs driven to,
When fiftene once has found us! First, I saw
him;

I (seeing) thought he was a goodly man;
He has as much to please a woman in him,
(If he please to bestow it so) as ever 10
(These eyes yet lookt on. Next, I pittied him,
And so would any young wench, o' my Con-
science,

That ever dream'd, or vow'd her Maydenhead
To a yong hansom Man; Then I lov'd him,
Extreamely lov'd him, infinitely lov'd him; 15
And yet he had a Cosen, faire as he too.
But in my heart was *Palamon*, and there,
Lord, what a coyle he keeps! To heare him
Sing in an evening, what a heaven it is!

42 Ends Tree Q 43 ye Sew. : yet Q, F 44
Ends touch Q 52-5 Verse Sew., etc. 58 says Sew. :
sees Q, F 58-61 Prose Q 62-5 Div. after and,
before, what Q 66 Ends Away Q

92 Well, I Q, F 94 the Sew. : then Q, F 95
never Q, F: near Th. : ever Dyce S. D. Athens,
etc. add. Dyce 3 his Q, F: this Sew. 18 To
heare Q, F: To sit and hear Sew.

And yet his Songs are sad ones. Fairer
spoken ²⁰
Was never Gentleman. When I come in
To bring him water in a morning, first
He bowes his noble body, then salutes me,
thus:

'Faire, gentle Mayde, good morrow; may thy
goodnes

Get thee a happy husband.' Once he kist me.
I lov'd my lips the better ten daies after. ²⁶
Would he would doe so ev'ry day! He greives
much,

And me as much to see his misery.

What should I doe, to make him know I love
him?

For I would faine enjoy him. Say I ventur'd
To set him free? whatsaies the law then? Thus
much ³¹

For Law, or kindred! I will doe it,
And this night, or to morrow, he shall love
me. *[Exit.]*

Scæna 5. *(An open place in Athens.)*

*Enter Theseus, Hipolita, Pirithous, Emilia:
Arcite with a Garland, &c.*

*[This short flourish of Cornets
and Showles within.]*

Thes. You have done worthily; I have not
seene,

Since *Hercules*, a man of tougher synewes;
What ere you are, you run the best, and
wrestle,

That these times can allow.

Arcite. I am proud to please you. ⁵

Thes. What Countreie bred you?

Arcite. This; but far off, Prince.

Thes. Are you a Gentleman?

Arcite. My father said so;

And to those gentle uses gave me life. ¹⁰

Thes. Are you his heire?

Arcite. His yongest, Sir.

Thes. Your Father

Sure is a happy Sire then: what proves you?

Arcite. A little of all noble Qualities: ¹⁵
I could have kept a Hawke, and well have
holloa'd

To a deepe crie of Dogges; I dare not praise
My feat in horsemanship, yet they that knew
me

Would say it was my best peece: last, and
greatest,

I would be thought a Souldier. ²⁰

Thes. You are perfect.

Pirith. Vpon my soule, a proper man.

Emilia. He is so.

Per. How doe you like him, Ladie?

Hip. I admire him; ²⁵

I have not seene so yong a man so noble
(If he say true,) of his sort.

Emil. Beleeve,

His mother was a wondrous handsome
woman;

His face, me thinkes, goes that way. ³⁰

Hyp. But his Body

And firie minde illustrate a brave Father.

Per. Marke how his vertue, like a hidden
Sun,

Breakes through his baser garments.

Hyp. Hee's well got, sure. ³⁵

Thes. What made you seeke this place, Sir?

Arc. Noble *Theseus*,

To purchase name, and doe my ablest service
To such a well-found wonder as thy worth,
For onely in thy Court, of all the world, ⁴⁰
Dwells faire-eyd honor.

Per. All his words are worthy.

Thes. Sir, we are much endebted to your
travell,

Nor shall you loose your wish: *Perithous*,
Dispose of this faire Gentleman. ⁴⁵

Perith. Thanks, *Theseus*.

What ere you are y'ar mine, and I shall give
you

To a most noble service, to this Lady,
This bright yong Virgin; pray, observe her
goodnesse;

You have honourd hir faire birth-day with
your vertues, ⁵⁰

And as your due y'ar hirs: kisse her faire
hand, Sir.

Arc. Sir, y'ar a noble Giver: dearest Bewtie,

Thus let me seale my vovd faith: when your
Servant

(Your most unworthie Creature) but offends
you,

Command him die, he shall. ⁵⁵

Emil. That were too cruell.

If you deserve well, Sir, I shall soone see't:
Y'ar mine, and somewhat better than your
rancke

Ile use you.

Per. Ile see you furnish'd, and because you
say ⁶⁰

You are a horseman, I must needs intreat you
This after noone to ride, but tis a rough one.

Arc. I like him better, Prince, I shall not
then

Freeze in my Saddle.

32 doe it Q: do it, ay *Sew.*

33 or Q: and *Sew.*

Scæna 4 Q: Scæna Secunda F

S. D. An. . Athens

Litt. 10 me Q: my conj. *Sew.*

14 proves Q:

prove *Sew.*: profess conj. *Ingram*

40 Fo Q

58-9 One line Q

Thes. Sweet, you must be readie, 65
And you, *Emilia*, and you, Friend, and all,
To morrow by the Sun, to doe observance
To flowry May, in *Dians* wood: waite well, Sir,
Vpon your Mistris. *Emely*, I hope
He shall not goe a foote. 70

Emil. That were a shame, Sir,
While I have horses: take your choice, and
what

You want at any time, let me but know it;
If you serve faithfully, I dare assure you
You'll finde a loving Mistris. 75

Arc. If I doe not,
Let me finde that my Father ever hated,
Disgrace and blowes.

Thes. Go, leade the way; you have won it:
It shall be so; you shall receave all dues 80
Fit for the honour you have won; Twer wrong
else.

Sister, beshrew my heart, you have a Servant,
That, if I were a woman, would be Master,
But you are wise. [*Flurish.*]

Emil. I hope too wise for that, Sir. 85
[*Exeunt omnes.*]

Scæna 6. (*Before the prison.*)

Enter Iaylors Daughter alone.

Daughter. Let all the Dukes, and all the
divells rore,

He is at liberty: I have venturd for him,
And out I have brought him to a little wood
A mile hence. I have sent him, where a
Cedar,

Higher than all the rest, spreads like a plane 5
Fast by a Brooke, and there he shall keepe
close,

Till I provide him Fyles and foode, for yet
His yron bracelets are not off. O Love,
What a stout hearted child thou art! My
Father

Durst better have indur'd cold yron, than done
it: 10

I love him beyond love and beyond reason,
Or wit, or safetie: I have made him know it.
I care not, I am desperate; If the law
Finde me, and then condemne me for't, some
wenches,

Some honest harted Maides, will sing my
Dirge, 15

And tell to memory my death was noble,
Dying almost a Martyr: That way he takes,
I purpose is my way too: Sure he cannot
Be so unmanly, as to leave me here;
If he doe, Maides will not so easily 20

Trust men againe: And yet he has not thank'd
me
For what I have done: no not so much as kist
me,
And that (me thinkes) is not so well; nor
scarcely
Could I perswade him to become a Freeman,
He made such scruples of the wrong he did 25
To me, and to my Father. Yet I hope,
When he considers more, this love of mine
Will take more root within him: Let him doe
What he will with me, so he use me kindly;
For use me so he shall, or ile proclaime him,
And to his face, no man. Ile presently 31
Provide him necessaries, and packe my
cloathes up,
And where there is a patch of ground Ile
venture,
So hee be with me; By him, like a shadow,
Ile ever dwell; within this houre the whoobub
Will be all ore the prison: I am then 36
Kissing the man they looke for: farewell,
Father;
Get many more such prisoners and such
daughters,
And shortly you may keepe your selfe. Now
to him!

Actus Tertius.

Scæna 1. (*A forest near Athens.*)

*Cornets in sundry places. Noise and hallow-
ing as people a Maying.*

Enter Arcite alone.

Arcite. The Duke has lost Hypolita; each
tooke

A severall land. This is a solemne Right
They owe bloomd May, and the *Athenians*
pay it

To'th heart of Ceremoney. O Queene *Emilia*,
Fresher then May, sweeter 5

Then hir gold Buttons on the bowes, or all
Th' enamell'd knackes o'th Meade or garden:
yea,

We challenge too the bancke of any Nymph
That makes the streame seeme flowers; thou,
o Iewell

O'th wood, o'th world, hast likewise blest a
place 10

With thy sole presence: in thy rumination
That I, poore man, might eftsoones come be-
twene

And chop on some cold thought! thrice blessed
chance,

33 patch *Ingleby*, *Litt.*: path *Q*, *F* *S. D. A*
forest etc. add. Litt. 2 land *Q ff.*: stand *conj.* *Heath*:
laund *conj.* *Dyce* 10 place *Ser.*, etc.: pace *Q*, *F*

To drop on such a Mistris, expectation
Most gilltesse on't! tell me, O Lady Fortune,
(Next after *Emely* my Sovereigne) how far 16
I may be prowd. She takes strong note of
me,

Hath made me neere her; and this beuteous
Morne

(The prim'st of all the yeare) presents me with
A brace of horses: two such Steeds might well
Be by a paire of Kings backt, in a Field 21
That their crownes titles tride. Alas, alas,
Poore Cosen *Palamon*, poore prisoner, thou
So little dream'st upon my fortune, that
Thou thinkst thy selfe the happier thing, to be
So neare *Emilia*; me thou deem'st at *Thebs*, 26
And therein wretched, although free. But if
Thou knew'st my Mistris breathd on me, and
that

I ear'd her language, livde in her eye, O Coz,
What passion would enclose thee! 30

*Enter Palamon as out of a Bush, with his
Shackles: bends his fist at Arcite.*

Palamon. Traytor kinsman,
Thou shouldst perceive my passion, if these
signes

Of prisonment were off me, and this hand
But owner of a Sword: By all othes in one,
I and the iustice of my love would make thee
A confest Traytor. O thou most perfidious 36
That ever gently lookd; the voydest of honour,
That eu'r bore gentle Token; falsest Cosen
That ever blood made kin, call'st thou hir
thine?

Ile prove it in my Shackles, with these hands, 40
Void of appointment, that thou ly'st, and art
A very theefe in love, a Chaffy Lord,
Nor worth the name of villaine: had I a Sword
And these house clogges away—

Arc. Deere Cosin *Palamon*— 45

Pal. Cosoner *Arcite*, give me language such
As thou hast shewd me feate.

Arc. Not finding in
The circuit of my breast any grosse stuffe
To forme me like your blazon, holds me to 50
This gentleness of answer; tis your passion
That thus mistakes, the which to you being
enemy,

Cannot to me be kind: honor, and honestie
I cherish, and depend on, how so ev'r
You skip them in me, and with them, faire
Coz, 55

Ile maintaine my proceedings; pray, be
pleas'd

To shew in generous termes your griefes, since
that

Your question's with your equall, who pro-
fesses

To cleare his owne way with the minde and
Sword

Of a true Gentleman. 60

Pal. That thou durst, *Arcite*!

Arc. My Coz, my Coz, you have beene well
advertis'd

How much I dare, y'ave seene me'use my
Sword

Against th'advise of feare: sure, of another
You would not heare me doubted, but your
silence 65

Should breake out, though i'th Sanctuary.

Pal. Sir,

I have seene you move in such a place, which
well

Might justifie your manhood; you were calld
A good knight and a bold; But the whole
weeke's not faire, 70

If any day it rayne: Their valiant temper
Men loose when they encline to trecherie,
And then they fight like coupelld Beares, would
fly

Were they not tyde.

Arc. Kinsman, you might as well 75

Speake this and act it in your Glasse, as to
His eare which now disdaines you.

Pal. Come up to me,

Quit me of these cold Gyves, give me a Sword,
Though it be rustie, and the charity 80
Of one meale lend me; Come before me then,
A good Sword in thy hand, and doe but say
That *Emily* is thine: I will forgive

The trespasse thou hast done me, yea, my
life, 84

If then thou carry't, and brave soules in shades
That have dyde manly, which will seek of me
Some newes from earth, they shall get none
but this,

That thou art brave and noble.

Arc. Be content: 89

Againe betake you to your hawthorne house;
With counsaile of the night, I will be here
With wholesome viands; these impediments
Will I file off; you shall have garments and
Perfumes to kill the smell o'th prison; after,
When you shall stretch your selfe and say but,

'*Arcite*,

I am in plight,' there shall be at your choyce
Both Sword and Armour.

Pal. Oh you heavens, dares any
So noble beare a guilty busines! none
But onely *Arcite*, therefore none but *Arcite* 100
In this kinde is so bold.

68 well om. *Litt.*

73 coupel'd *F*: compell'd *Q*

99 nobly *Sk.* busines] baseness *Dyce*, ed. 1867

Arc. Sweete *Palamon*.

Pal. I doe embrace you and your offer,—for
Your offer doo't I onely, Sir; your person,
Without hipocrisy I may not wish 105

[*Winde hornes of Cornets.*]

More then my Swords edge ont.

Arc. You heare the Hornes;
Enter your Musite least this match between's
Be crost, er met: give me your hand; farewell.
He bring you every needfull thing: I pray you,
Take comfort and be strong. 111

Pal. Pray hold your promise;
And doe the deede with a bent brow: most
certaine

You love me not, be rough with me, and powre
This oile out of your language; by this ayre,
I could for each word give a Cuffe, my
stomach 116

Not reconcild by reason.

Arc. Plainely spoken,
Yet pardon me hard language: when I spur
[*Winde hornes.*]

My horse, I chide him not; content and anger
In me have but one face. Harke, Sir, they
call 121

The scatterd to the Banket; you must guesse
I have an office there.

Pat. Sir, your attendance
Cannot please heaven, and I know your office
Vnjustly is atcheev'd. 126

Arc. If a good title,
I am perswaded this question sicke between's
By bleeding must be cur'd. I am a Suitour,
That to your Sword you will bequeath this plea
And talke of it no more. 131

Pal. But this one word:
You are going now to gaze upon my Mistris,
For note you, mine she is—

Arc. Nay, then. 135

Pal. Nay, pray you,
You talke of feeding me to breed me strength:
You are going now to looke upon a Sun
That strengthens what it looks on; there
You have a vantage ore me, but enjoy't till
I may enforce my remedy. Farewell. 141

[*Exeunt.*]

Scæna 2. (*Another Part of the forest.*)

Enter Iaylors daughter alone.

Daugh. He has mistooke the Brake I
meant, is gone

108 musite *Litt.*: musit *Knight*: Musicke *Q*, *F*:
Muse quick *Sew.* 120 not *F*, etc.: nor *Q* 1 127
If *Q*, *F*: I've *Sew.*, etc. 139 *Ends* have *Dyce*, etc.
140 enjoy it *Dyce*, etc. *S. D.* Another etc., add.
Dyce 1 Brake *Th.*: Beake *Q*: Brook *Sy.*: Beck
Sew.: Hawk *conj.* *Sew.*

After his fancy. Tis now welnigh morning;
No matter, would it were perpetuall night,
And darkenes Lord o'th world. Harke, tis a
woolfe:

In me hath greife slaine feare, and but for one
thing 5

I care for nothing, and that's *Palamon*.
I wreake not if the wolves would jaw me, so
He had this File: what if I hallowd for him?
I cannot hallow: if I whoop'd, what then?

If he not answeard, I should call a wolfe, 10
And doe him but that service. I have heard
Strange howles this live-long night, why may't
not be

They have made prey of him? he has no
weapons,

He cannot run, the Iengling of his Gives
Might call fell things to listen, who have in
them 15

A sence to know a man unarmed, and can
Smell where resistance is. He set it downe
He's torne to peeces; they howld many
together 18

And then they fed on him: So much for that,
Be bold to ring the Bell; how stand I then?

All's char'd when he is gone. No, no, I lye,
My Father's to be hang'd for his escape;
My selfe to beg, if I prizd life so much

As to deny my act, but that I would not, 24
Should I try death by dussons.—I am mop't,
Food tooke I none these two daies,

Sipt some water. I have not closd mine eyes
Save when my lids scowrd off their brine;
alas,

Dissolue my life, Let not my sence unsettle,
Least I should drowne, or stab or hang my
selfe. 30

O state of Nature, faile together in me,
Since thy best props are warpt! So, which way
now?

The best way is the next way to a grave:
Each errant step beside is torment. Loe,
The Moore is down, the Cryckets chirpe, the
Schreichowle 35

Calls in the dawne; all offices are done
Save what I faile in: But the point is this,
An end, and that is all. [*Exit.*]

Scæna 3. (*Same as Scene I.*)

Enter Arcite, with Meate, Wine, and Files.

Arc. I should be neere the place: ho, Cosen
Palamon. [*Enter Palamon.*]

Pal. Arcite?

7 wreake *Q*: reek *Sew.*, etc. 19 fed *F*, etc.: feed
Q 27 Sipt *Q*: only sipt *Sew.*: 'cept *conj.* *Sy.* 28
brine *Tonson*: bine *Q*, *F*

Arc. The same: I have brought you foode and files.
 Come forth and feare not, here's no *Theseus*.
Pal. Nor none so honest, *Arcite*. 5
Arc. That's no matter,
 Wee'l argue that hereafter: Come, take courage;
 You shall not dye thus beastly: here, Sir, drinke;
 I know you are faint: then ile talke further with you.
Pal. *Arcite*, thou mightst now poyson me.
Arc. I might, 11
 But I must feare you first: Sit downe, and, good, now
 No more of these vaine parlies; let us not, Having our ancient reputation with us,
 Make talke for Fooles and Cowards. To your health, &c. 15
Pal. Doe.
Arc. Pray, sit downe then; and let me entreate you,
 By all the honesty and honour in you, No mention of this woman: t'will disturbe us;
 We shall have time enough. 20
Pal. Well, Sir, Ile pledge you.
Arc. Drinke a good hearty draught; it breeds good blood, man.
 Doe not you feele it thaw you?
Pal. Stay, Ile tell you after a draught or two more.
Arc. Spare it not, the Duke has more, Cuz: Eate now. 25
Pal. Yes.
Arc. I am glad you have so good a stomach.
Pal. I am gladder I have so good meate too't.
Arc. Is't not mad lodging here in the wild woods, Cosen?
Pal. Yes, for them that have wilde Consciencies. 30
Arc. How tasts your vittails? your hunger needs no sawce, I see.
Pal. Not much;
 But if it did, yours is too tart, sweete Cosen: what is this?
Arc. Venison.
Pal. Tis a lusty meate: 35
 Giue me more wine; here, *Arcite*, to the wenches
 We have known in our daies. The Lord Stewards daughter,
 Doe you remember her?
Arc. After you, Cuz.
Pal. She lov'd a black-haired man. 40

15 &c. *Q:* *S. D.* Drinks *Dyce* 30 them *F,* etc.: then *Q*

Arc. She did so; well, Sir.
Pal. And I have heard some call him *Arcite*, and—
Arc. Out with't, faith.
Pal. She met him in an Arbour:
 What did she there, Cuz? play o'th virginals?
Arc. Something she did, Sir. 46
Pal. Made her groane a moneth for't, or 2. or 3. or 10.
Arc. The Marshals Sister
 Had her share too, as I remember, Cosen,
 Else there be tales abroad; you'l pledge her?
Pal. Yes. 51
Arc. A pretty broune wench t'is. There was a time
 When yong men went a hunting, and a wood,
 And a broade Beech: and thereby hangs a tale:
 —heigh ho!
Pal. For *Emily*, upon my life! Foole, 55
 Away with this straine mirth; I say againe,
 That sigh was breathd for *Emily*; base Cosen,
 Dar'st thou breake first?
Arc. You are wide.
Pal. By heaven and earth, ther's nothing in thee honest. 60
Arc. Then Ile leave you: you are a Beast now.
Pal. As thou makst me, Traytour.
Arc. Ther's all things needfull, files and shirts, and perfumes:
 Ile come againe some two howres hence, and bring
 That that shall quiet all, 65
Pal. A Sword and Armour?
Arc. Feare me not; you are now too fowle; farewell.
 Get off your Trinkets; you shall want nought.
Pal. Sir, ha—
Arc. Ile heare no more. [Exit.
Pal. If he keepe touch, he dies for't. 71 [Exit.

Scæna 4. (*Another part of the forest.*)

Enter Iaylors daughter.

Daugh. I am very cold, and all the Stars are out too,
 The little Stars, and all, that looke like aglets:
 The Sun has seene my Folly. *Palamon!*
 Alas no; hees in heaven. Where am I now?
 Yonder's the sea, and ther's a Ship; how't tumbles! 5
 And ther's a Rooke lies watching under water;
 Now, now, it beates upon it; now, now, now,
 Ther's a leak sprung, a sound one, how they cry!

S. D. Another etc. add. *Dyce*

Spoon her before the winde, you'l loose all els:
Vp with a course or two, and take about, Boyes.
Good night, good night, y'ar gone.—I am very
hungry. 11

Would I could finde a fine Frog; he would tell
me

Newes from all parts o'th world, then would I
make

A Carecke of a Cockle shell, and sayle
By east and North East to the King of Pigmes,
For he tels fortunes rarely. Now my Father,
Twenty to one, is trust up in a trice 17
To morrow morning; Ile say never a word.

[Sings.]

For ile cut my greene coat a foote above my
knee,

And ile clip my yellow lockes an inch below
mine eie. 20

ney, nonny, nonny, nonny,
He's buy me a white Cut, forth for to ride

And ile goe seeke him, throw the world that is
so wide

hey nonny, nonny, nonny.

O for a pricke now like a Nightingale, 25
To put my breast against. I shall sleepe like
a Top else. [Exit.]

'Scæna 5. (Another part of the forest.)

Enter a Schoole master, 4. Countrymen, and
Bavian. 2. or 3. wenches, with a Taborer.

Sch. Fy, fy, what tediousity, & disensanity
is here among ye? have my Rudiments bin
labourd so long with ye? milkd unto ye, and by
a figure even the very plumbroth & marrow
of my understanding laid upon ye? and do you
still cry: where, and how, & wherfore? you
most course freeze capacities, ye jane Iudge-
ments, have I saide: thus let be, and there let
be, and then let be, and no man understand
mee? *Proh deum, medius fidius*, ye are all
dunces! For why, here stand I, Here the
Duke comes, there are you close in the
Thicket; the Duke appeares, I meete him and
unto him I utter learned things and many
figures; he heares, and nods, and hums, and
then cries: rare, and I goe forward; at length
I fling my Cap up; marke there; then do you,
as once did *Meleager* and the *Bore*, break
comly out before him: like true lovers, cast
your selves in a Body decently, and sweetly,
by a figure trace and turne, Boyes. 21

9 Spoon *conj. Th.*: Vpon *Q*: Up with *Scw.*: Spoom
Weber: Run *Sk.* 22 He s' *Sk.* 25 Ends breast *Q*
Scæna 6 *Q* S. D. Another *etc. add. Dyce* S. D.
Bavian *Scw.*: Baum *Q*, F' 1-21 Verse *Scw.*, *etc.* 7
jane *Dyce*: jave *Q*, F': sleave *Scw.*

1. And sweetly we will doe it Master
Gerrold.

2. Draw up the Company. Where's the
Taborour?

3. Why, *Timothy*!
Tab. Here, my mad boyes, have at ye. 25
Sch. But I say, where's their women?

4. Here's *Friz* and *Maudline*.

2. And little *Luce* with the white legs, and
bouncing *Barbery*.

1. And freckled *Nel*, that never faild her
Master.

Sch. Where be your Ribands, maids? swym
with your Bodies 30

And carry it sweetly, and deliverly
And now and then a faour, and a friske.

Nel. Let us alone, Sir.

Sch. Wher's the rest o'th Musicke?

3. Dispersd as you commanded. 35

Sch. Couple, then,
And see what's wanting; wher's the *Bavian*?

My friend, carry your taile without offence
Or scandall to the Ladies; and be sure
You tumble with audacity and manhood; 40
And when you barke, doe it with judgement.

Bau. Yes, Sir.

Sch. *Quo usque tandem*? Here is a woman
wanting.

4. We may goe whistle: all the fat's i'th
fire.

Sch. We have, 45

As learned Authours utter, washd a Tile,
We have beene *fatuus*, and laboured vainely.

2. This is that scornefull peece, that scurvy
hilding,

That gave her promise faithfully, she would
be here,

Cicely the Sempsters daughter: 50

The next gloves that I give her shall be dog
skin;

Nay and she faile me once—you can tell,
Arcas,

She swore by wine and bread, she would not
breake.

Sch. An Eele and woman,

A learned Poet sayes, unles by'th taile 55
And with thy teeth thou hold, will either
faile.

In manners this was false position

1. A fire ill take her; do's she flinch now?

3. What

Shall we determine, Sir? 60

Sch. Nothing.

Our busines is become a nullity;
Yea, and a woefull, and a pittious nullity.

49 Ends would 58 fire ill *Q*: wild-fire *conj.*
Dyce: feril *Scw.*

4. Now when the credite of our Towne lay
on it, 64
Now to be pissell, now to pisse o'th nettles!
Goe thy waies; ile remember thee, ile fit thee.

Enter Iaylors daughter.

Daughter. The George alow came from the
South,
From the coast of Barbary a.
And there he met with brave gallants of war
By one, by two, by three, a. 70

Well hailld, well hailld, you jolly gallants,
And whither now are you bound a?
O let me have your company

[Chaire and stooles out.]

Till (I) come to the sound a. 74
There was three fooles, fell out about an howlet:
The one sed it was an owle,
The other he sed nay,
The third he sed it was a hawke,
And her bels wer cut away. 79

3. Ther's a dainty mad woman M(aiste)r
Comes i'th Nick, as mad as a march hare:
If wee can get her daunce, wee are made againe:
I warrant her, shee'll doe the rarest gambols.

1. A mad woman? we are made, Boyes.

Sch. And are you mad, good woman? 85

Daugh. I would be sorry else;
Give me your hand.

Sch. Why?

Daugh. I can tell your fortune.
You are a foole: tell ten. I have pozd him:
Buzl 90
Friend you must eate no whitebread; if you doe,
Your teeth will bleede extreemely. Shall we
dance, ho?

I know you, y'ar a Tinker: Sirha Tinker,
Stop no more holes, but what you should.

Sch. *Dij boni.* A Tinker, Damzell? 95

Daugh. Or a Conjuror:

Raise me a devill now, and let him play
Quipassa o'th bels and bones.

Sch. Goe, take her,

And fluently perswade her to a peace: 100

Et opus exegi, quod nec Louis ira, nec ignis.

Strike up, and leade her in.

2. Come, Lasse, lets trip it.

Daugh. Ile leade. *[Winde Hornes:]*

3. Doe, doe. 105

Sch. Perswasively, and cunningly: away,
boyes,

[Ex. all but Schoolemaster.]

67 alow Q: holla Herford: a hoy conj. Daniel
73-4 One line Q 74 I add. Tonson 80 Mr. Q:
Magister Sev. 80-3 Prose Q, F 100 a peace Q,
F: appease conj. Reed: a place Mason

I heare the hornes: give me some meditation,
And marke your Cue.—Pallas inspire me.

*Enter Thes. Pir. Hip. Emil. Arcite, and
traine.*

Thes. This way the Stag tooke.

Sch. Stay, and edifie. 110

Thes. What have we here?

Per. Some Countrey sport, upon my life,
Sir.

Thes. Well, Sir, goe forward, we will edifie.
Ladies, sit downe, wee'l stay it.

Sch. Thou, doughtie Duke, all haile: all
haile, sweet Ladies. 115

Thes. This is a cold beginning.

Sch. If you but favour, our Country pas-
time made is.

We are a few of those collected here,
That ruder Tongues distinguish villager;
And to say veritie, and not to fable, 120

We are a merry rout, or else a rable,
Or company, or, by a figure, *Choris*,
That fore thy dignitie will dance a Morris.

And I, that am the rectifier of all,
By title *Pedagogus*, that let fall 125

The Birch upon the breeches of the small
ones,

And humble with a *Ferula* the tall ones,
Doe here present this Machine, or this frame:
And daintie Duke, whose doughtie dismall
fame

From *Dis* to *Dedalus*, from post to pillar, 130
Is blowne abroad, helpe me thy poore well
willer,

And with thy twinkling eyes looke right and
straight

Vpon this mighty *Morr*—of mickle waight;
Is now comes in, which being glewd together,
Makes *Morris*, and the cause that we came
hether. 135

The body of our sport, of no small study,
I first appeare, though rude, and raw, and
muddy,

To speake before thy noble grace this tenner:
At whose great feete I offer up my penner. 139
The next the Lord of May and Lady bright,
The Chambermaid and Servingman by night
That seeke out silent hanging: Then mine
Host

And his fat Spowse, that welcomes to their
cost

The gauled Traveller, and with a beckning 144
Informs the Tapster to inflame the reckning:
Then the beast eating Clowne, and next the
foole,

113 Prefix Per. Q, F 143 welcome Colman, etc
their] his Walker 146 beef-eating Mason

The *Bavian*, with long tayle and eke long
toole,
Cum multis alijs that make a dance:
Say 'I,' and all shall presently advance. 149
Thes. I, I, by any meanes, deere Domine.
Per. Produce.
(*Sch.*) *Intrate, filij;* Come forth, and foot
it.—

[*Musicke, Dance. Knocke for Schoole.*

Enter the Dance.

*Ladies, if we have beene merry,
And have pleasd yee with a derry,
And a derry, and a downe,* 155
*Say the Schoolemaster's no Clowne:
Duke, if we have pleasd thee too,
And have done as good Boyes should doe,
Give us but a tree or twaine
For a Maypole, and againe,* 160
*Ere another yeare run out,
Wee'll make thee laugh and all this rout.*

Thes. Take 20., Domine; how does my
sweet heart?

Hip. Never so pleasd, Sir.

Emil. Twas an excellent dance, and for a
preface 165

I never heard a better.

Thes. Schoolemaster, I thanke you.—One
see'em all rewarded.

Per. And heer's something to paint your
Pole withall.

Thes. Now to our sports againe. 169

Sch. May the Stag thou huntst stand long,
And thy dogs be swift and strong:

May they kill him without lets,
And the Ladies eate his dowsets!

Come, we are all made. [*Winde Hornes.*

Dij Deæq(ue) omnes, ye have danc'd rarely,
wenches. [*Exeunt.*

Scæna 6. (*Same as Scene III.*)

Enter Palamon from the Bush.

Pal. About this houre my Cosen gave his
faith

To visit me againe, and with him bring
Two Swords, and two good Armors; if he
faile,

He's neither man nor Souldier. When he left
me, 4

I did not thinke a weeke could have restord
My lost strength to me, I was growne so low,

And Crest-falne with my wants: I thanke thee,
Arcite,

Thou art yet a faire Foe; and I feele my selfe

152 Prefix Ger (= Gerrold) add. Dyce 154 have
om. Steu. ye Steu.: thee Q 157 thee F, etc.: three Q

Scena 7. Q

With this refreshing, able once againe
To out dure danger: To delay it longer 10
Would make the world think, when it comes to
hearing,

That I lay fattig like a Swine to fight,
And not a Souldier: Therefore, this blest
morning

Shall be the last; and that Sword he refuses,
If it but hold, I kill him with; tis Iustice: 15
So love, and Fortune for me!—O, good
morrow.

Enter Arcite with Armors and Swords.

Arc. Good morrow, noble kinsman.

Pal. I have put you to too much paines, Sir.

Arc. That too much, faire Cosen,
Is but a debt to honour, and my duty. 20

Pal. Would you were so in all, Sir; I could
wish ye

As kinde a kinsman, as you force me finde
A beneficial foe, that my embraces

Might thanke ye, not my blowes.

Arc. I shall thinke either, well done, 25

A noble recompence.

Pal. Then I shall quit you.

Arc. Defy me in these faire termes, and
you show

More then a Mistris to me, no more anger
As you love any thing that's honourable: 30

We were not bred to talke, man; when we are
arm'd

And both upon our guards, then let our fury,
Like meeting of two tides, fly strongly from us,

And then to whom the birthright of this
Beauty 34

Truely pertaines (without obbraidings, scornes,
Dispisings of our persons, and such powtings,

Fitter for Girles and Schooleboyes) will be
seene

And quickly, yours, or mine: wilt please you
arme, Sir,

Or if you feele your selfe not fitting yet
And furnishd with your old strength, ile stay,
Cosen, 40

And ev'ry day discourse you into health,
As I am spard: your person I am friends with,

And I could wish I had not saide I lov'd her,
Though I had dide; But loving such a Lady 44

And justifying my Love, I must not fly from't.
Pal. *Arcite*, thou art so brave an enemy,

That no man but thy Cosen's fit to kill thee:
I am well and lusty, choose your Armes.

Arc. Choose you, Sir.

Pal. Wilt thou exceede in all, or do'st thou
doe it 50

To make me spare thee?

25 Ends either Q

Arc. If you thinke so, Cosen,
You are deceived, for as I am a Soldier,
I will not spare you.

Pal. That's well said. 55

Arc. You'l finde it.

Pal. Then, as I am an honest man and
love

With all the justice of affection,
Ile pay thee soundly. This ile take.

Arc. That's mine, then; 60
Ile arme you first.

Pal. Do: pray thee, tell me, Cosen,
Where gotst thou this good Armour?

Arc. Tis the Dukes,
And to say true, I stole it; doe I pinch you? 65

Pal. Noe.

Arc. Is't not too heavie?

Pal. I have worne a lighter,
But I shall make it serve.

Arc. Ile buckl't close. 70

Pal. By any meanes.

Arc. You care not for a Grand guard?

Pal. No, no; wee'l use no horses: I per-
ceave

You would faile be at that Fight.

Arc. I am indifferent. 75

Pal. Faith, so am I: good Cosen, thrust the
buckle

Through far enough.

Arc. I warrant you.

Pal. My Caske now.

Arc. Will you fight bare-arm'd? 80

Pal. We shall be the nimbler.

Arc. But use your Gauntlets though; those
are o'th least,

Prethee take mine, good Cosen.

Pal. Thanke you, *Arcite*.

How doe I looke? am I falne much away? 85
Arc. Faith, very little; love has usd you
kindly.

Pal. Ile warrant thee, Ile strike home.

Arc. Doe, and spare not;

Ile give you cause, sweet Cosen.

Pal. Now to you, Sir: 90

Me thinks this Armor's very like that, *Arcite*,
Thou wor'st that day the 3. Kings fell, but
lighter.

Arc. That was a very good one; and that
day,

I well remember, you outdid me, Cosen.

I never saw such valour: when you chargd 95
Vpon the left wing of the Enemye,

I spurd hard to come up, and under me

I had a right good horse.

Pal. You had indeede; a bright Bay, I re-
member.

Arc. Yes, but all 100

Was vainely labour'd in me; you outwent me,
Nor could my wishes reach you; yet a little
I did by imitation.

Pal. More by vertue;

You are modest, Cosen. 105

Arc. When I saw you charge first,
Me thought I heard a dreadfull clap of Thunder
Breake from the Troope.

Pal. But still before that flew

The lightning of your valour. Stay a little,
Is not this peece too streight? 111

Arc. No, no, tis well.

Pal. I would have nothing hurt thee but
my Sword,

A bruise would be dishonour.

Arc. Now I am perfect. 115

Pal. Stand off, then.

Arc. Take my Sword, I hold it better.

Pal. I thanke ye: No, keepe it; your life
lyes on it.

Here's one; if it but hold, I aske no more

For all my hopes: My Cause and honour guard
me! [*They bow severall wayes:*
then advance and stand.

Arc. And me my love! Is there ought *else*
to say? 121

Pal. This onely, and no more: Thou art
mine Aunts Son,

And that blood we desire to shed is mutuall;

In me, thine, and in thee, mine. My Sword
Is in my hand, and if thou killst me, 125

The gods and I forgive thee; If there be
A place prepar'd for those that sleepe in
honour,

I wish his wearie soule that falls may win it:
Fight bravely, Cosen; give me thy noble hand.

Arc. Here, *Palamon*: This hand shall never
more 130

Come neare thee with such friendship.

Pal. I commend thee.

Arc. If I fall, curse me, and say I was a
coward,

For none but such dare die in these just
Tryalls.

Once more farewell, my Cosen. 135

Pal. Farewell, *Arcite*. [*Fight.*

[*Hornes within: they stand.*

Arc. Loe, Cosen, loe, our Folly has undon
us.

Pal. Why?

Arc. This is the Duke, a hunting as I told
you.

If we be found, we are wretched. O retire
For honours sake, and safety presently 141
Into your Bush agen; Sir, we shall finde
Too many howres to dye in: gentle Cosen,

141 safety *See:* safety Q

If you be seene you perish instantly
For breaking prison, and I, if you reveale me,
For my contempt. Then all the world will
scorne us, 146

And say we had a noble difference,
But base disposers of it.

Pal. No, no, Cosen,
I will no more be hidden, nor put off 150
This great adventure to a second Tryall:
I know your cunning, and I know your cause;
He that faints now, shame take him: put thy
selfe

Vpon thy present guard—

Arc. You are not mad? 155

Pal. Or I will make th'advantage of this
howre

Mine owne, and what to come shall threaten
me,

I feare lesse then my fortune: know, weake
Cosen,

I love *Emilia*, and in that ile bury
Thee, and all crosses else. 160

Arc. Then, come what can come,
Thou shalt know, *Palamon*, I dare as well
Die, as discourse, or sleepe: Onely this feares
me,

The law will have the honour of our ends.
Have at thy life. 165

Pal. Looko to thine owne well, *Arcite*.
[*Fight againe. Hornes.*]

*Enter Theseus, Hipolita, Emilia, Perithous
and traine.*

Theseus. What ignorant and mad malicious
Traitors,

Are you, That gainst the tenor of my Lawes
Are making Battaile, thus like Knights ap-
pointed,

Without my leave, and Officers of Armes? 170
By *Castor*, both shall dye.

Pal. Hold thy word, *Theseus*.
We are certainly both Traitors, both de-
spisers

Of thee and of thy goodnesse: I am *Palamon*,
That cannot love thee, he that broke thy
Prison; 175

Thinke well what that deserves: and this is
Arcite,

A bolder Traytor never trod thy ground,
A Falser neu'r seem'd friend: This is the man
Was begd and banish'd; this is he contemnes
thee

And what thou dar'st doe, and in this dis-
guise 180

Against thy owne Edict followes thy Sister,

181 thy own *Dyce*: this owne *Q*: this known *Ser*.:
thine owne *Sk*.

That fortunate bright Star, the faire *Emilia*,
Whose servant, (if there be a right in seeing,
And first bequeathing of the soule to) justly
I am, and, which is more, dares thinke her his.
This treacherie, like a most trusty Lover, 186
I call'd him now to answer; if thou bee'st,
As thou art spoken, great and vertuous,
The true descider of all injuries,
Say, 'Fight againe,' and thou shalt see me,
Theseus, 190

Doe such a Iustice, thou thy selfe wilt envie.
Then take my life; Ile woove thee too't.

Per. O heaven,

What more then man is this!

Thes. I have sworne. 195

Arc. We seeke not

Thy breath of mercy, *Theseus*. Tis to me
A thing as soone to dye, as thee to say it,
And no more mov'd: where this man calls me
Traitor,

Let me say thus much: if in love be Treason,
In service of so excellent a Beutie, 201

As I love most, and in that faith will perish,
As I have brought my life here to confirme it,

As I have serv'd her truest, worthiest,
As I dare kill this Cosen, that denies it, 205

So let me be most Traitor, and ye please me.
For scorning thy Edict, Duke, aske that Lady

Why she is faire, and why her eyes command
me

Stay here to love her; and if she say 'Traytor,'
I am a villaine fit to lye unburied. 210

Pal. Thou shalt have pitty of us both, o
Theseus,

If unto neither thou shew mercy; stop
(As thou art just) thy noble eare against us.

As thou art valiant, for thy Cosens soule
Whose 12. strong labours crowne his memory,

Lets die together, at one instant, Duke, 216
Onely a little let him fall before me,

That I may tell my Soule he shall not have
her.

Thes. I grant your wish, for, to say true,
your Cosen

Has ten times more offended; for I gave him
More mercy then you found, Sir, your offenses

Being no more then his. None here speake
for 'em, 222

For, ere the Sun set, both shall sleepe for ever.

Hipol. Alas the pitty! now or never, Sister,
Speake, not to be denide; That face of yours
Will beare the curses else of after ages 226
For these lost Cosens.

Emil. In my face, deare Sister,
I finde no anger to 'em, nor no ruyn;
The misadventure of their owne eyes kill 'em;

230 kills *Sen*.

Yet that I will be woman, and have pitty, 231
My knees shall grow to'th ground but Ile get
mercie.

Helpe me, deare Sister; in a deede so vertuous
The powers of all women will be with us.

Most royall Brother— 235

Hipol. Sir, by our tye of Marriage—

Emil. By your owne spotlesse honour—

Hip. By that faith,

That faire hand, and that honest heart you
gave me.

Emil. By that you would have pitty in
another, 240

By your owne vertues infinite.

Hip. By valour,

By all the chaste nights I have ever pleas'd you.

Thes. These are strange Conjurings.

Per. Nay, then, Ile in too: 245

By all our friendship, Sir, by all our dangers,

By all you love most: warres and this sweet
Lady.

Emil. By that you would have trembled to
deny,

A blushing Maide.

Hip. By your owne eyes: By strength, 250

In which you swore I went beyond all women,
Almost all men, and yet I yeelded, *Theseus*.

Per. To crowne all this: By your most
noble soule,

Which cannot want due mercie, I beg first.

Hip. Next, heare my prayers. 255

Emil. Last, let me intreate, Sir.

Per. For mercy.

Hip. Mercy.

Emil. Mercy on these Princes.

Thes. Ye make my faith reele: Say I felt
Compassion to'em both, how would you place
it? 261

Emil. Vpon their lives: But with their
banishments.

Thes. You are a right woman, Sister; you
have pitty,

But want the vnderstanding where to use it.

If you desire their lives, invent a way 265

Safer then banishment: Can these two live

And have the agony of love about 'em,

And not kill one another? Every day

They'd fight about you; howrely bring your
honour

In publique question with their Swords. Be 270

wise, then,

And here forget 'em; it concerns your credit

And my oth equally: I have said they die;

Better they fall by'th law, then one another.

Bow not my honor.

Emil. O my noble Brother, 275

That oth was rashly made, and in your anger,

Your reason will not hold it; if such vowes
Stand for expresse will, all the world must
perish.

Beside, I have another oth gainst yours,
Of more authority, I am sure more love, 280
Not made in passion neither, but good heede.

Thes. What is it, Sister?

Per. Vрге it home, brave Lady.

Emil. That you would nev'r deny me any
thing

Fit for my modest suit, and your free granting:

I tye you to your word now; if ye fall in't,

Thinke how you maime your honour, 287

(For now I am set a begging, Sir, I am deafe

To all but your compassion.) How, their lives

Might breed the ruine of my name, Opinion!

Shall any thing that loves me perish for me?

That were a cruell wisdom; doe men proyne

The straight yong Bowes that blush with

thousand Blossoms, 293

Because they may be rotten? O Duke *Theseus*,

The goodly Mothers that have ground for
these,

And all the longing Maides that ever lov'd,

If your vow stand, shall curse me and my

Beauty, 297

And in their funerall songs for these two

Cosens

Despise my crueltie, and cry woe worth me,

Till I am nothing but the scorne of women;

For heavens sake save their lives, and banish

'em. 301

Thes. On what conditions?

Emil. Sweare'em never more

To make me their Contention, or to know me,

To tread upon thy Dukedome; and to be, 305

Where ever they shall travel, ever strangers

To one another.

Pal. Ile be cut a peeces

Before I take this oth: forget I love her?

O all ye gods dispise me, then! Thy Banish-

ment 310

I not mislike, so we may fairely carry

Our Swords and cause along: else, never

trifle,

But take our lives, Duke: I must love and will,

And for that love must and dare kill this Cosen

On any peece the earth has. 315

Thes. Will you, *Arcite*,

Take these conditions?

Pal. He's a villaine, then.

Per. These are men.

Arcite. No, never, Duke: Tis worse to me
than begging 320

286 fall *Q, F*: fall *Tonson*

290 name; Opinion

Q: Name—Opinion *Seiv.*: names Opinion *Th.* 296

lo'vd them *Walker*

To take my life so basely; though I thinke
I never shall enjoy her, yet ile preserve
The honour of affection, and dye for her,
Make death a Devill.

Thes. What may be done? for now I feelee
compassion. 325

Per. Let it not fall agen, Sir.

Thes. Say, *Emilia*,

If one of them were dead, as one must, are you
Content to take th'other to your husband?
They cannot both enjoy you; They are Princes
As goodly as your owne eyes, and as noble
As ever fame yet spoke of; looke upon 'em,
And if you can love, end this difference.

I give consent; are you content too, Princes?

Both. With all our soules. 335

Thes. He that she refuses

Must dye, then.

Both. Any death thou canst invent, Duke.

Pal. If I fall from that mouth, I fall with
favour, 339

And Lovers yet unborne shall blesse my ashes.

Arc. If she refuse me, yet my grave will
wed me,

And Souldiers sing my Epitaph.

Thes. Make choice, then.

Emil. I cannot, Sir, they are both too
excellent:

For me, a hayre shall never fall of these men.

Hip. What will become of 'em? 346

Thes. Thus I ordaine it;

And by mine honor, once againe, it stands,
Or both shall dye:—You shall both to your
Countray,

And each within this moneth, accompanied
With three faire Knights, appeare againe in
this place, 351

In which Ile plant a Pyramid; and whether,
Before us that are here, can force his Cosen
By fayre and knightly strength to touch the
Pillar, 354

He shall enjoy her: the other loose his head,
And all his friends; Nor shall he grudge to
fall,

Nor thinke he dies with interest in this Lady:
Will this content yee?

Pal. Yes: here, Cosen *Arcite*,

I am friends againe, till that howre. 360

Arc. I embrace ye.

Thes. Are you content, Sister?

Emil. Yes, I must, Sir,

Els both miscarry.

Thes. Come, shake hands againe, then;

And take heede, as you are Gentlemen, this
Quarrell 366

331 as your *Q* etc.: in your *conj.* *Daniel* 344-5 too
excellent For me *Q*, *F*

Sleepe till the howre prefixt; and hold your
course.

Pal. We dare not faile thee, *Theseus*.

Thes. Come, Ile give ye 369

Now usage like to Princes, and to Friends:
When ye returne, who wins, Ile settle heere;
Who looses, yet Ile weepe upon his Beere.

[*Exeunt.*]

Actus Quartus.

Scæna 1. (*Athens.* A room in the prison.)

Enter Iailor and his friend.

Iailor. Heare you no more? was nothing
saide of me

Concerning the escape of *Palamon*?

Good Sir, remember.

1. *Fr.* Nothing that I heard,

For I came home before the busines

Was fully ended: Yet I might perceive,

Ere I departed, a great likelihood

Of both their pardons: For *Hipolita*,

And faire-eyd *Emilie*, upon their knees

Begd with such hansom pittie, that the Duke
Me thought stood staggering, whether he
should follow 11

His rash oth, or the sweet compassion

Of those two Ladies; and to second them,

That truely noble Prince *Perithous*,

Halfe his owne heart, set in too, that I hope 15

All shall be well: Neither heard I one question
Of your name or his escape.

Enter 2. Friend.

Iay. Pray heaven it hold so.

2. *Fr.* Be of good comfort, man; I bring
you newes,

Good newes. 20

Iay. They are welcome,

2. *Fr.* *Palamon* has cleerd you,

And got your pardon, and discovered how

And by whose meanes he escapt, which was
your Daughters,

Whose pardon is procurd too; and the
Prisoner, 25

Not to be held ungratefull to her goodnes,

Has given a summe of money to her Marriage,
A large one, ile assure you.

Iay. Ye are a good man

And ever bring good newes. 30

1. *Fr.* How was it ended?

2. *Fr.* Why, as it should be; they that
nev'r begd

But they prevaild, had their suites fairely
granted,

The prisoners have their lives.

S. D. Athens.. etc. add. *Dyce* *S. D.* and First
Friend Dyce 12 o'th *Q* 23 *Ends* discovered *Q*, *F*

1. *Fr.* I knew t'would be so. 35
 2. *Fr.* But there be new conditions, which
 you'll heare of
 At better time.

Iay. I hope they are good.
 2. *Fr.* They are honourable,
 How good they'l prove, I know not. 40

Enter Wooer.

1. *Fr.* T'will be knowne.
Woo. Alas, Sir, wher's your Daughter?
Iay. Why doe you aske?
Woo. O, Sir, when did you see her?
 2. *Fr.* How he lookes? 45
Iay. This morning.
Woo. Was she well? was she in health, Sir?
 When did she sleepe?

1. *Fr.* These are strange Questions.
Iay. I doe not thinke she was very well,
 for now 50

You make me minde her, but this very day
 I ask'd her questions, and she answered me
 So farre from what she was, so childishly,
 So sillily, as if she were a foole,
 An Inocent, and I was very angry. 55
 But what of her, Sir?

Woo. Nothing but my pitty;
 But you must know it, and as good by me
 As by an other that lesse loves her—

Iay. Well, Sir. 60
 1. *Fr.* Not right?
 2. *Fr.* Not well?—*Wooer*, No, Sir, not
 well.

Tis too true, she is mad.
 1. *Fr.* It cannot be.
Woo. Beleeve, you'l finde it so. 65
Iay. I halfe suspected
 What you (have) told me: the gods comfort
 her:

Either this was her love to *Palamon*,
 Or feare of my miscarrying on his scape,
 Or both. 70

Woo. Tis likely.
Iay. But why all this haste, Sir?
Woo. Ile tell you quickly. As I late was
 angling

In the great Lake that lies behind the Pallace,
 From the far shore, thicke set with reedes and
 Sedges, 75

As patiently I was attending sport,
 I heard a voyce, a shrill one, and attentive
 I gave my eare, when I might well perceive
 T'was one that sung, and by the smallnesse of
 it

A boy or woman. I then left my angle 80

63 Prefix *Woo.* repeated before this line *Q*
 have add. *Sew.*

To his owne skill, came neere, but yet per-
 ceivd not

Who made the sound, the rushes and the
 Reeds

Had so encompass it: I laide me downe
 And listned to the words she sung, for then,
 Through a small glade cut by the Fisher men,
 I saw it was your Daughter. 86

Iay. Pray, goe on, Sir?
Woo. She sung much, but no sence; onely
 I heard her

Repeat this often: '*Palamon* is gone,
 Is gone to'th wood to gather Mulberies; 90
 Ile finde him out to morrow.'

1. *Fr.* Pretty soule.
Woo. 'His shackles will betray him, hee'l
 be taken,

And what shall I doe then? Ile bring a heavy,
 A hundred blacke eyd Maides, that love as I
 doe, 95

With Chaplets on their heads of Daffadillies,
 With cherry-lips, and cheekes of Damaske
 Roses,

And all wee'l daunce an Antique fore the
 Duke,

And beg his pardon.' Then she talk'd of you,
 Sir;

That you must loose your head to morrow
 morning, 100

And she must gather flowers to bury you,
 And see the house made handsome: then she
 sung

Nothing but 'Willow, willow, willow,' and
 betweene

Ever was, '*Palamon*, faire *Palamon*,'
 And '*Palamon* was a tall yong man.' The
 place 105

Was knee deepe where she sat; her careles
 Tresses

A wreath of bull-rush rounded; about her
 stucke

Thousand fresh water flowers of severall
 cullors,

That me thought she appeard like the faire
 Nymph

That feedes the lake with waters, or as Iris
 Newly dropt downe from heaven; Rings she
 made 111

Of rushes that grew by, and to'em spoke
 The prettiest posies: 'Thus our true love's
 tide,'

'This you may loose, not me,' and many a
 one:

And then she wept, and sung againe, and
 sigh'd, 115

84 sung *F:* song *Q* 107 wreath *Sew.*: wreake
Q: wreak *F*

And with the same breath smil'd, and kist her hand.

2. *Fr.* Alas, what pitty it is!

Wooser. I made in to her.

She saw me, and straight sought the flood;
I sav'd her,

And set her safe to land: when presently 120
She slipt away, and to the City made,
With such a cry and swiftnes, that, beleeve me,
Shée left me faire behinde her; three or foure
I saw from farre off crosse her, one of 'em
I knew to be your brother; where she staid,
And fell, scarce to be got away: I left them
with her, 126

Enter Brother, Daughter, and others.

And hether came to tell you. Here they are.

Daugh. May you never more enjoy the
light, &c.

Is not this a fine Song?

Bro. O, a very fine one. 130

Daugh. I can sing twenty more.

Bro. I thinke you can.

Daugh. Yes, truely, can I; I can sing the
Broome,

And Bony Robin. Are not you a tailour?

Bro. Yes. 135

Daugh. Wher's my wedding Gowne?

Bro. Ile bring it to morrow.

Daugh. Doe, very rarely; I must be abroad
else

To call the Maides, and pay the Minstrels,
For I must loose my Maydenhead by cock-
light; 140

Twill never thrive else.

O faire, oh sweete, &c. [*Singes.*

Bro. You must ev'n take it patiently.

Iay. Tis true.

Daugh. Good ev'n, good men; pray, did
you ever heare 145

Of one yong *Palamon*?

Iay. Yes, wench, we know him.

Daugh. Is't not a fine yong Gentleman?

Iay. Tis Love.

Bro. By no meane crosse her; she is then
distemperd 150

Far worse then now she showes.

1. *Fr.* Yes, he's a fine man.

Daugh. O, is he so? you have a Sister?

1. *Fr.* Yes.

Daugh. But she shall never have him, tell
her so, 155

For a tricke that I know; y'had best looke to
her,

138 rarely *Q.* *F.*: rearly *conj. Sy.*: early *Sev.*
149 Tis, Love *Q.* 150 means *Colman* 151 For
Q. *F.*

For if she see him once, she's gone, she's
done,

And undon in an howre. All the young
Maydes

Of our Towne are in love with him, but I laugh
at 'em

And let 'em all alone; Is't not a wise course?

1. *Fr.* Yes. 161

Daugh. There is at least two hundred now
with child by him—

There must be fowre; yet I keepe close for all
this,

Close as a Cockle; and all these must be
Boyes, 164

He has the tricke on't, and at ten yeares old
They must be all gelt for Musitians,
And sing the wars of *Theseus*.

2. *Fr.* This is strange.

Daugh. As ever you heard, but say nothing.

1. *Fr.* No. 170

Daugh. They come from all parts of the
Dukedome to him;

Ile warrant ye, he had not so few last night

As twenty to dispatch: hee'l tickl't up

In two howres, if his hand be in.

Iay. She's lost 175

Past all cure.

Bro. Heaven forbid, man.

Daugh. Come hither, you are a wise man.

1. *Fr.* Do's she know him?

2. *Fr.* No, would she did. 180

Daugh. You are master of a Ship?

Iay. Yes.

Daugh. Wher's your Compasse?

Iay. Heere.

Daugh. Set it too'th North. 185

And now direct your course to'th wood, wher
Palamon

Lyes longing for me; For the Tackling

Let me alone; Come, waygh, my hearts,
cheerely!

All. Owgh, owgh, owgh, tis up, the wind's
faire,

Top the Bowling, out with the maine saile;

Wher's your Whistle, Master? 191

Bro. Lets get her in.

Iay. Vp to the top, Boy.

Bro. Wher's the Pilot?

1. *Fr.* Heere. 195

Daugh. What ken'st thou?

2. *Fr.* A faire wood.

Daugh. Beare for it, master: take about!

When *Cynthia* with her borrowed light, &c. [*Singes.*

[*Exeunt.*

Scæna 2. (*A Room in the Palace.*)

Enter Emilia alone, with 2. Pictures

Emilia. Yet I may binde those wounds up,
that must open

And bleed to death for my sake else; Ile
choose,

And end their strife: Two such yong hansom
men

Shall never fall for me, their weeping Mothers,
Following the dead cold ashes of their Sonnes,
Shall never curse my cruelty. Good heaven,
What a sweet face has *Arcite*! if wise nature,
With all her best endowments, all those
beuties

She sows into the birthes of noble bodies,
Were here a mortall woman, and had in her
The coy denials of yong Maydes, yet doubtles,
She would run mad for this man: what an eye,
Of what a fyry sparkle, and quick sweetnes,
Has this yong Prince! Here Love himselfe
sits smyling,

Iust such another wanton *Ganimead*

Set Jove a fire with, and enforced the god
Snatch up the goodly Boy, and set him by him
A shining constellation: What a brow,
Of what a spacious Majesty, he carries!

Arch'd like the great eyd *Iuno*'s, but far
sweeter,

Smoother then *Pelops* Shoulder! Fame and
honour,

Me thinks, from hence, as from a Promontory
Pointed in heaven, should clap their wings,
and sing

To all the under world the Loves and Fights
Of gods, and such men neere 'em. *Palamon*
Is but his foyle, to him a meere dull shadow:
Hee's swarth and meagre, of an eye as
heavy

As if he had lost his mother; a still temper,
No stirring in him, no alacrity,
Of all this sprightly sharpenes not a smile; 30
Yet these that we count errours may become
him:

Narcissus was a sad Boy, but a heavenly:—
Oh who can finde the bent of womans fancy?
I am a Foole, my reason is lost in me;
I have no choice, and I have ly'd so lowdly 35
That women ought to beate me. On my
knees

I aske thy pardon, *Palamon*; thou art alone,
And only beutifull, and these the eyes,
These the bright lamps of beauty, that com-
mand

S. D. A Room etc. add. T 9 sowes Q: shews F
16 Jove *Sy.*: Love Q, F with om. *Scw.* 38 the
Q: thy F

And threaten Love, and what yong Mayd dare
crosse 'em? 40

What a bold gravity, and yet inviting,
Has this browne manly face! O Love, this only
From this howre is Complexion: Lye there,
Arcite,

Thou art a changling to him, a meere Gipsey,
And this the noble Bodie. I am sotted, 45
Vtterly lost: My Virgins faith has fled me;
For if my brother but even now had ask'd me
Whether I lov'd, I had run mad for *Arcite*;
Now, if my Sister, More for *Palamon*.

Stand both together: Now, come aske me,
Brother.— 50

Alas, I know not! Aske me now, sweet
Sister;—

I may goe looke. What a meere child is
Fancie,

That, having two faire gawdes of equall
sweetnesse,
Cannot distinguish, but must crie for both.

Enter (a) Gent(leman.)

Emil. How now, Sir? 55

Gent. From the Noble Duke your Brother,
Madam, I bring you newes: The Knights are
come.

Emil. To end the quarrell?

Gent. Yes.

Emil. Would I might end first: 60

What sinnes have I committed, chaste *Diana*,
That my unspotted youth must now be soyld
With blood of *Princes*? and my Chastitie
Be made the Altar, where the lives of Lovers
(Two greater and two better never yet 65
Made mothers joy) must be the sacrifice
To my unhappy Beautie?

*Enter Theseus, Hipolita, Perithous and
attendants.*

Theseus. Bring 'em in

Quickly, By any meanes; I long to see 'em.—
Your two contending Lovers are return'd, 70
And with them their faire Knights: Now, my
faire Sister,

You must love one of them.

Emil. I had rather both,
So neither for my sake should fall untimely.

Enter Messenger. (Curtis.)

Thes. Who saw 'em? 75

Per. I, a while.

Gent. And I.

46 Virgin *Scw.* 52 may] must conj. S S. D.
Enter Emil. and Gent. Q, F 68 Ends quickly Q:
corr. Dyce 71 faire Q: sixe conj. Walker S. D.
Messengers Q

Thes. From whence come you, Sir?
Mess. From the Knights.
Thes. Pray, speake,
 You that have seene them, what they are.
Mess. I will, Sir,
 And truly what I thinke: Six braver spirits
 Then these they have brought, (if we judge by
 the outside)
 I never saw, nor read of. He that stands
 In the first place with *Arcite*, by his seeming,
 Should be a stout man, by his face a Prince,
 (His very lookes so say him) his complexion,
 Nearer a browne, than blacke, sterne, and yet
 noble,
 Which shewes him hardy, fearelesse, proud of
 dangers:
 The circles of his eyes show fire within him,
 And as a heated Lyon, so he lookes;
 His haire hangs long behind him, blacke and
 shining
 Like Ravens wings: his shoulders broad and
 strong,
 Armd long and round, and on his Thigh a
 Sword
 Hung by a curious Bauldricke, when he
 frownes
 To seale his will with: better, o'my conscience
 Was never Souldiers friend.
Thes. Thou ha'st well describde him.
Per. Yet a great deale short,
 Me thinkes, of him that's first with *Palamon*.
Thes. Pray, speake him, friend.
Per. I ghesse he is a Prince too,
 And, if it may be, greater; for his show
 Has all the ornament of honour in't:
 Hee's somewhat bigger, then the Knight he
 spoke of,
 But of a face far sweeter; His complexion
 Is (as a ripe grape) ruddy: he has felt,
 Without doubt, what he fights for, and so
 apter
 To make this cause his owne: In's face ap-
 peares
 All the faire hopes of what he undertakes,
 And when he's angry, then a settled valour
 (Not tainted with extreames) runs through his
 body,
 And guides his arme to brave things: Feare
 he cannot,
 He shewes no such soft temper; his head's
 yellow,
 Hard hayr'd, and curld, thicke twind like Ivy
 tods,
 Not to undoe with thunder; In his face

84 these *Q*: those *F* 86 first *F*, etc.: first *Q*
 91 fire *Heath*, *Dyce*: faire *Q*: far *Sew.* 95 Arms
Sew. 116 tods *Litt.*: tops *Q*, 1'

The liverie of the warlike Maide appeares,
 Pure red, and white, for yet no beard has
 blest him.
 And in his rowling eyes sits victory,
 As if she ever ment to court his valour:
 His Nose stands high, a Character of honour.
 His red lips, after fights, are fit for Ladies.
Emil. Must these men die too?
Per. When he speaks, his tongue
 Sounds like a Trumpet; All his lyneaments
 Are as a man would wish 'em, strong and
 cleane,
 He weares a well-steeld Axe, the staffe of gold;
 His age some five and twenty.
Mess. Ther's another,
 A little man, but of a tough soule, seeming
 As great as any: fairer promises
 In such a Body yet I never look'd on.
Per. O, he that's freckle fac'd?
Mess. The same, my Lord;
 Are they not sweet ones?
Per. Yes, they are well.
Mess. Me thinkes,
 Being so few, and well disposd, they show
 Great, and fine art in nature: he's white
 hair'd,
 Not wanton white, but such a manly colour
 Next to an aborne; tough, and nimble set,
 Which shows an active soule; his armes are
 brawny,
 Linde with strong sinewes: To the shoulder
 peece
 Gently they swell, like women new conceav'd,
 Which speaks him prone to labour, never
 fainting
 Vnder the waight of Armes; stout harted, still,
 But when he stirs, a Tiger; he's gray eyd,
 Which yeelds compassion where he conquers:
 sharpe
 To spy advantages, and where he finds 'em,
 He's swift to make 'em his: He do's no wrongs,
 Nor takes none; he's round fac'd, and when
 he smiles
 He shows a Lover, when he frownes, a
 Souldier:
 About his head he weares the winners oke,
 And in it stucke the favour of his Lady:
 His age, some six and thirtie. In his hand
 He beares a charging Staffe, embost with
 silver.
Thes. Are they all thus?
Per. They are all the sonnes of honour.
Thes. Now, as I have a soule, I long to
 see 'em.
 Lady, you shall see men fight now.

121 court conj. *Dyce*: corect *Q*: crown *Sew.*

Hip. I wish it,
But not the cause, my Lord; They would show
Bravely about the Titles of two Kingdomes;
Tis pittie Love should be so tyrannous: 165
O my soft harted Sister, what thinke you?
Weepe not, till they weepe blood, Wench; it
must be.

Thes. You have steeld 'em with your
Beautie.—Honord Friend,
To you I give the Feild; pray, order it
Fitting the persons that must use it. 170

Per. Yes, Sir.

Thes. Come, Ile goe visit 'em: I cannot
stay,
Their fame has fir'd me so; Till they appeare.
Good Friend, be royall.

Per. There shall want no bravery. 175

Emilia. Poore wench, goe weepe, for who-
soever wins,
Looses a noble Cosen for thy sins. [*Exeunt.*]

Scæna 3. (*A room in the prison.*)

Enter Iailor, Wooer, Doctor.

Doct. Her distraction is more at some time
of the Moone, then at other some, is it not?

Iay. She is continually in a harmelesse
distemper, sleepes little, altogether without
appetite, save often drinking, dreaming of
another world, and a better; and what broken
peece of matter so'ere she's about, the name
Palamon lardes it, that she farces ev'ry
busines withall, fyts it to every question.— 9

Enter Daughter.

Looke where shee comes, you shall perceive
her behaviour.

Daugh. I have forgot it quite; The burden
on't, was *downe a, downe a*, and pend by no
worse man, then *Girald*, *Emilias* Schoole-
master; he's as Fantasticall too, as ever he may
goe upon's legs,—for in the next world will
Dido see *Palamon*, and then will she be out
of love with *Eneas*.

Doct. What stuff's here? pore soule!

Iay. Ev'n thus all day long. 20

Daugh. Now for this Charme, that I told
you of: you must bring a peece of silver on
the tip of your tongue, or no ferry: then, if
it be your chance to come where the blessed
spirits, as ther's a sight now—we maids that
have our *Lyvers* perish'd, crakt to peeeces with
Love, we shall come there, and doe nothing
all day long but picke flowers with *Proserpine*;

then will I make *Palamon* a Nosegay; then let
him marke me,—then— 30

Doct. How prettily she's amisse? note her a
little further.

Dau. Faith, ile tell you, sometime we goe
to Barly breake, we of the blessed; alas, tis
a sore life they have i'th other place, such
burning, frying, boyling, hissing, howling,
chattring, cursing, oh they have shrowd
measure! take heede; if one be mad, or hang
or drowne themselves, thither they goe,
Iupiter blesse vs, and there shall we be put
in a Caldron of lead, and Vsurers grease,
amongst a whole million of cutpurses, and
there boyle like a Gamon of Bacon that will
never be enough. [*Exit.*]

Doct. How her braine coynes! 45

Daugh. Lords and Courtiers, that have
got maids with Child, they are in this place:
they shall stand in fire up to the Nav'le, and
in yce up to'th hart, and there th'offending
part burnes, and the deceaving part freezes;
in troth, a very greevous punishment, as one
would thinke, for such a Trifle; beleve me,
one would marry a leaprous witch, to be rid
on't, Ile assure you. 54

Doct. How she continues this fancie! Tis
not an engrafted Madnesse, but a most thicke,
and profound mellencholly.

Daugh. To heare there a proud Lady, and
a proud City wiffe, howle together! I were
a beast and il'd call it good sport: one cries,
'O this smoake!' another, 'this fire!' One
cries, 'O, that ever I did it behind the arras!'
and then howles; th'other curses a suing
fellow and her garden house. 64
Sings] *I will be true, my stars, my fate, &c.*

[*Exit Daugh.*]

Iay. What thinke you of her, Sir?

Doct. I thinke she has a perturbed minde,
which I cannot minister to.

Iay. Alas, what then?

Doct. Vnderstand you, she ever affected
any man, ere she beheld *Palamon*? 71

Iay. I was once, Sir, in great hope she had
fixd her liking on this gentleman, my friend.

Woo. I did thinke so too, and would
account I had a great pen-worth on't, to give
halfe my state, that both she and I at this
present stood unfaindly on the same tearmes.

Do. That intemprat surfeit of her eye hath
distemperd the other senses: they may
returne and settle againe to execute their

163 *Ends* bravely *Sev.* 164 about *Q*, *F*: Fight-
ing about *Sev.* 167 blood; Wench *Q*. *S. D. A*
room etc, add. *Dyce* 1-44 Verse *Q*, *F*

35 i'th Thother *Q* 40 we *Q*, etc.: they conj.
Litt. 61 another *Q*: th'other *Dyce* (later edd.)
62 behind] *The Bodleian copy of Q* has behold; cf. note.
70 ff. Verse *Q*, *F*

preordaind faculties, but they are now in a most extravagant vagary. This you must doe: Confine her to a place, where the light may rather seeme to steale in, then be permitted; take vpon you (yong Sir, her friend) the name of *Palamon*; say you come to eate with her, and to commune of Love; this will catch her attention, for this her minde beates upon; other objects that are inserted twene her minde and eye become the pranks and friskins of her madnes; Sing to her such greene songs of Love, as she sayes *Palamon* hath sung in prison; Come to her, stucke in as sweet flowers as the season is mistres of, and thereto make an addition of som other compounded odours, which are grateful to the sence: all this shall become *Palamon*, for *Palamon* can sing, and *Palamon* is sweet, and ev'ry good thing: desire to eate with her, carve her, drinke to her, and still among, interminge your petition of grace and acceptance into her favour: Learne what Maides have beene her companions and play-pheeres, and let them repaire to her with *Palamon* in their mouthes, and appeare with tokens, as if they suggested for him. It is a falsehood she is in, which is with falsehood to be combated. This may bring her to eate, to sleepe, and reduce what's now out of square in her, into their former law, and regiment; I have seene it approved, how many times I know not, but to make the number more, I have great hope in this. I will, betweene the passages of this project, come in with my applaynce: Let us put it in execution, and hasten the successe, which, doubt not, will bring forth comfort. [*Florish. Exeunt.* 117

Actus Quintus

Scæna 1. (*Before the Temples of Mars, Venus, and Diana.*)

Enter Theseus, Perithous, Hipolita, attendants.

Thes. Now let'em enter, and before the gods

Tender their holy prayers: Let the Temples Burne bright with sacred fires, and the Altars In hallowed clouds commend their swelling Incense

To those above us: Let no due be wanting; 5
[*Florish of Cornets.*

They have a noble worke in hand, will honour

The very powers that love 'em.

91 friskings *Knight, Dyce.* 100 carve *F: crave*
Q: carve for Sev. 110 Regiment *Sev.* *S. D.*
Before etc. add. *Dyce* 4 smelling *conj. Th.*

Enter Palamon and Arcite, and their Knights.

Per. Sir, they enter.

Thes. You valiant and strong harted Enemies,

You royall German foes, that this day come 10
To blow that furnesse out that flames betweene ye:

Lay by your anger for an houre, and dove-like,

Before the holy Altars of your helpers,
(The all feard gods) bow downe your stubborne bodies.

Your ire is more than mortall; So your helpe be, 15

And as the gods regard ye, fight with Iustice; Ile leave you to your prayers, and betwixt ye I part my wishes.

Per. Honour crowne the worthiest.

[*Exit Theseus, and his traine.*

Pal. The glasse is running now that cannot finish 20

Till one of us expire: Thinke you but thus, That were there ought in me which strove to show

Mine enemy in this businesse, wer't one eye Against another, Arme oppress by Arme, I would destroy th'offender, Coz, I would, 25
Though parcell of my selfe: Then from this gather

How I should tender you.

Arc. I am in labour

To push your name, your auncient love, our kindred

Out of my memory; and i'th selfe same place To seate something I would confound: So hoyst we 31

The sayles, that must these vessells port even where

The heavenly Lymiter pleases.

Pal. You speake well;

Before I turne, Let me embrace thee, Cosen: This I shall never doe agen. 36

Arc. One farewell.

Pal. Why, let it be so: Farewell, Coz.

[*Exeunt Palamon and his Knights.*

Arc. Farewell, Sir.—

Knights, Kinsemen, Lovers, yea, my Sacrifices, True worshippers of Mars, whose spirit in you Expells the seedes of feare, and th'apprehension

Which still is farther off it, Goe with me Before the god of our profession: There Require of him the hearts of Lyons, and 45
The breath of Tigers, yea, the fearcenesse too,

11 furnesse *pr. ed.: nearnesse Q, etc.: fiercenesse*
conj. Ingleby 32 part *Sev.* 43 father of *conj. Th.*

Yea, the speed also,—to goe on, I meane,
Else wish we to be Snayles: you know my
price

Must be drag'd out of blood; force and great
feate

Must put my Garland on, where she stickes 50
The Queene of Flowers: our intercession then
Must be to him that makes the Campe a
Cestron

Brymd with the blood of men: give me your
aide

And bend your spirits towards him.

[*They kneele.*]

Thou mighty one, that with thy power hast
turnd 55

Greene Neptune into purple, (whose Approach)
Comets prewarne, whose havocke in vaste
Feild

Vnearthed skulls proclaime, whose breath
blowes downe,

The teeming Ceres foyzon, who doth plucke
With hand armypotent from forth blew
cloudes 60

The masond Turrets, that both mak'st and
break'st

The stony girthes of Citties: me thy puple,
Yongest follower of thy Drom, instruct this
day

With military skill, that to thy lawde
I may advance my Streamer, and by thee, 65
Be stil'd the Lord o'th day: give me, great
Mars,

Some token of thy pleasure.

[*Here they fall on their faces as formerly, and
there is heard clanging of Armor, with a
short Thunder as the burst of a Battaile,
whereupon they all rise and bow to the Altar.*]

O Great Corrector of enormous times,
Shaker of ore-rank States, thou grand decider
Of dustie and old tytles, that healst with blood
The earth when it is sicke, and curst the
world 71

O'th pluresie of people; I doe take
Thy signes auspiciously, and in thy name
To my designe march boldly. Let us goe.

[*Exeunt.*]

*Enter Palamon and his Knights, with the
former observance.*

Pal. Our stars must glister with new fire,
or be 75

To daie extinct; our argument is love,
Which if the goddesse of it grant, she gives

50 on *Q*, etc.: on me *conj. Litt.* stickes *Q*: will
stick *Ser.* 54 *S. D.* They advance to the altar of
Mars, and fall on their faces; then kneel *Dyce* 56
whose Approach *add. Ser.* 60 armipotent *Ser.*:
armenypotent *Q* 63 Young *Ser.*

Victory too: then blend your spirits with
mine,

You, whose free noblenesse doe make my
cause

Your personall hazard; to the goddesse *Venus*
Commend we our proceeding, and implore 81
Her power unto our partie.

[*Here they kneele as formerly.*]

Haile, Sovereigne Queene of secrets, who hast
power

To call the feircest Tyrant from his rage,
And weepe unto a Girle; that ha'st the might,
Even with an ey-glance, to choke *Mars*'s

Drom 86

And turne th'allarme to whispers; that canst
make

A Cripple flourish with his Crutch, and cure him
Before *Apollo*; that may'st force the King

To be his subjects vassaile, and induce 90
Stale gravitie to daunce; the pould Bachelour—
Whose youth, like wonton Boyes through
Bonfyes,

Have skipt thy flame—at seaventy thou canst
catch

And make him, to the scorne of his hoarse
throate, 94

Abuse yong laies of love: what godlike power
Hast thou not power upon? To *Phæbus* thou

Add'st flames hotter then his; the heavenly
fyes

Did scorch his mortall Son, thine him; the
huntsesse

All moyst and cold, some say, began to
throw 99

Her Bow away, and sigh. Take to thy grace
Me, thy vowd Souldier, who doe beare thy
yoke

As t'wer a wreath of Roses, yet is heavier
Then Lead it selfe, stings more than Nettles.

I have never beene foule mouthd against thy
law,

Nevr' reveald secret, for I knew none—would
not, 105

Had I kend all that were; I never practised
Vpon mans wife, nor would the Libells reade

Of liberrall wits; I never at great feastes
Sought to betray a Beautie, but have blush'd

At simpring Sirs that did; I have beene harsh
To large Confessors, and have hotly ask'd

them 111

If they had Mothers: I had one, a woman,
And women t'wer they wrong'd. I knew a
man

82 *S. D.* They advance to the altar of *Venus*, and
fall on their faces; then kneel *Dyce* 85 And *Q*,
F: To *Ser.* unto *Q*, *F*: into *conj. Th.* 92 youth
Q: Freaks of youth *Ser.*

Of eightie winters, this I told them, who
 A Lasse of foureteene bridged; twas thy power
 To put life into dust; the aged Crampe 116
 Had screw'd his square foote round,
 The Gout had knit his fingers into knots,
 Torturing Convulsions from his globie eyes,
 Had almost drawne their spheeres, that what
 was life 120

In him seem'd torture: this Anatomie
 Had by his yong faire pheare a Boy, and I
 Beleeu'd it was his, for she swore it was,
 And who would not beleeve her? briefe, I am
 To those that prate and have done no Com-
 panion; 125

To those that boast and have not a defyer;
 To those that would and cannot a Rejoycer.
 Yea, him I doe not love, that tells close offices
 The fowlest way, nor names concealements in
 The boldest language: such a one I am, 130
 And vow that lover never yet made sigh
 Truer then I. O, then, most soft, sweet
 goddesse,

Give me the victory of this question, which
 Is true loves merit, and blesse me with a signe
 Of thy great pleasure. 135

[Here Musicke is heard, Doves are seene to
 flutter; they fall againe upon their faces, then
 on their knees.

Pal. O thou, that from eleven to ninetie
 reign'st

In mortall bosomes, whose chase is this world,
 And we in heards thy game: I give thee
 thanks

For this faire Token, which, being layd unto
 Mine innocent true heart, armes in assurance
 [They bow.

My body to this businesse. Let us rise 141
 And bow before the goddesse: Time comes on.

[Exeunt.

[Still Musicke of Records.

Enter Emilia in white, her haire about her
 shoulders, (wearing) a wheaten wreath: One
 in white holding up her traine, her haire
 stucke with flowers: One before her carrying
 a silver Hynde, in which is conveyd Incense
 and sweet odours, which being set upon the
 Altar (of Diana) her maides standing a
 loofe, she sets fire to it; then they curtsey
 and kneele.

Emilia. O sacred, shadowie, cold and
 constant Queene,
 Abandoner of Revells, mute, contemplative,
 Sweet, solitary, white as chaste, and pure 145

122 pheare Q: Sphere F 126 defyer [desire conj.
 S. S. D. and wearing add. Dyce of Diana add.
 Dyce

As windefand Snow, who to thy femall knights
 Alow'st no more blood than will make a blush,
 Which is their orders robe: I heere, thy
 Priest,

Am humbled fore thine Altar; O vouchsafe,
 With that thy rare greene eye, which never
 yet 150

Beheld thing maculate, looke on thy virgin;
 And, sacred silver Mistris, lend thine eare
 (Which nev'r heard scurrill terme, into whose
 port

Ne're entred wanton found,) to my petition
 Seasond with holy feare: This is my last 155
 Of vestall office; I am bride habited,
 But mayden harted, a husband I have pointed,
 But doe not know him; out of two I should
 Choose one and pray for his successe, but I
 Am guiltlesse of election: of mine eyes, 160
 Were I to loose one, they are equall precious,
 I could doombe neither, that which perish'd
 should

Goe too't unsentenc'd: Therefore, most
 modest Queene,

He of the two Pretenders, that best loves me
 And has the truest title in't, Let him 165
 Take off my wheaten Gerland, or else grant
 The fyle and qualitie I hold, I may
 Continue in thy Band.

[Here the Hynde vanishes under the Altar; and
 in the place ascends a Rose Tree, having one
 Rose upon it.

See what our Generall of Ebbs and Flowes
 Out from the bowells of her holy Altar 170
 With sacred act advances! But one Rose:
 If well inspir'd, this Battaile shal confound
 Both these brave Knights, and I, a virgin
 flowre

Must grow alone unpluck'd.

[Here is heard a sodaine twang of Instruments,
 and the Rose fajs from the Tree (which
 vanishes under the altar.)

The flowre is falne, the Tree descends: O,
 Mistris, 175

Thou here dischargest me; I shall be gather'd:
 I thinke so, but I know not thine owne will;
 Vnclaspe thy Misterie.—I hope she's pleas'd,
 Her Signes were gratious.

[They curtsey and Exeunt.

Scæna 2. (A darkened Room in the Prison.)
 Enter Doctor, Iaylor and Wooer, in habite of
 Palamon.

Doct. Has this advice I told you, done any
 good upon her?

150 greene Q: sheen Sew. 153 port Q, etc.:
 Porch conj. Th. 174 S. D. which . . altar add.
 Dyce S. D. A darkened etc. add. T

Woer. O very much; The maids that kept
her company
Have halfe perswaded her that I am *Palamon*;
Within this halfe houre she came smiling to
me,
And asked me what I would eate, and when I
would kisse her: 5

I told her presently, and kist her twice.
Doct. Twas well done; twentie times had
bin far better,

For there the cure lies mainly.

Woer. Then she told me
She would watch with me to night, for well she
knew 10

What houre my fit would take me.

Doct. Let her doe so,
And when your fit comes, fit her home,
And presently.

Woer. She would have me sing. 15

Doct. You did so?

Woer. No.

Doct. Twas very ill done, then;

You should observe her ev'ry way.

Woer. Alas, 20

I have no voice, Sir, to confirme her that way.

Doct. That's all one, if yee make a noyse;

If she intreate againe, doe any thing,—

Lye with her, if she aske you.

Iaylor. Hoa, there, *Doctor!* 25

Doct. Yes, in the waie of cure.

Iaylor. But first, by your leave,

I'th way of honestie.

Doct. That's but a nicenesse,
Nev'r cast your child away for honestie; 30

Cure her first this way, then if shee will be
honest,

She has the path before her.

Iaylor. Thanke yee, *Doctor.*

Doct. Pray, bring her in,

And let's see how shee is. 35

Iaylor. I will, and tell her

Her *Palamon* staies for her: But, *Doctor,*

Me thinks you are i'th wrong still.

[*Exit Iaylor.*]

Doc. Goe, goe:

Our Fathers are fine Fooles: her honesty? 40

And we should give her physicke till we finde
that—

Woer. Why, doe you thinke she is not
honest, Sir?

Doct. How old is she?

Woer. She's eightene.

Doct. She may be, 45

But that's all one; tis nothing to our purpose.

What ere her Father saies, if you perceave

Her moode inclining that way that I spoke of,
Videlicet, the way of *flesh*—you have me?

Woer. Yet, very well, Sir. 50

Doctor. Please her appetite,
And doe it home; it cures her, *ipso facto*,
The mellencholly humour that infects her.

Woer. I am of your minde, *Doctor.*

Enter Iaylor, Daughter, Maide.

Doct. You'l finde it so; she comes, pray
humour her. 55

Iaylor. Come, your Love *Palamon* staies
for you, childe,

And has done this long houre, to visite you.

Daughter. I thanke him for his gentle
patience;

He's a kind Gentleman, and I am much
bound to him.

Did you nev'r see the horse he gave me? 60

Iaylor. Yes.

Daugh. How doe you like him?

Iaylor. He's a very faire one.

Daugh. You never saw him dance?

Iaylor. No. 65

Daugh. I have often.

He daunces very finely, very comely,

And for a ligge, come cut and long taile to
him,

He turnes ye like a Top.

Iaylor. That's fine, indeede. 70

Daugh. Hee'l dance the Morris twenty
mile an houre,

And that will founder the best hobby-horse

(If I have any skill) in all the parish,

And gallops to the turne of *Light a' love*;

What thinke you of this horse? 75

Iaylor. Having these vertues,

I thinke he might be brogt to play at Tennis.

Daugh. Alas, that's nothing.

Iaylor. Can he write and reade too?

Daugh. A very faire hand, and casts him-
selfe th'accounts 80

Of all his hay and provender: That Hostler

Must rise betime that cozens him. You know

The Chestnut Mare the Duke has?

Iaylor. Very well.

Daugh. She is horribly in love with him,
poore beast, 85

But he is like his master, coy and scornefull.

Iaylor. What dowry has she?

Daugh. Some two hundred Bottles,
And twenty strike of Oates; but hee'l ne're
have her;

He lispes in's neighing, able to entice 90

A Millars Mare: Hee'l be the death of her.

50 Yet *Q*: Yes *F*, etc. 55 humour *Th*: honour *Q*
74 turne *Q*: tune *Sar*, etc.

Doctor. What stuffe she utters!

Iaylor. Make curtsie; here your love comes.

Wooser. Pretty soule,

How doe ye? that's a fine maide, ther's a curtsiel 95

Daugh. Yours to command ith way of honestie.

How far is't now to'th end o'th world, my Masters?

Doctor. Why, a daies Iorney, wench.

Daugh. Will you goe with me?

Wooser. What shall we doe there, wench?

Daugh. Why, play at stoole ball: 101

What is there else to doe?

Wooser. I am content,

If we shall keepe our wedding there.

Daugh. Tis true: 105

For there, I will assure you, we shall finde

Some blind Priest for the purpose, that will venture

To marry us, for here they are nice, and foolish;

Besides, my father must be hang'd to morrow And that would be a blot i'th businesse. 110

Are not you *Palamon*?

Wooser. Doe not you know me?

Daugh. Yes, but you care not for me; I have nothing

But this pore petticoate, and too corse Smockes.

Wooser. That's all one; I will have you. 115

Daugh. Will you surely?

Wooser. Yes, by this faire hand, will I.

Daugh. Wee'l to bed, then.

Wooser. Ev'n when you will. *(Kisses her.)*

Daugh. O Sir, you would faine be nibbling.

Wooser. Why doe you rub my kisse off? 121

Daugh. Tis a sweet one,

And will perfume me finely against the wedding.

Is not this your Cosen *Arcite*?

Doctor. Yes, sweet heart, 125

And I am glad my Cosen *Palamon*

Has made so faire a choice.

Daugh. Doe you thinke hee'l have me?

Doctor. Yes, without doubt.

Daugh. Doe you thinke so too? 130

Iaylor. Yes.

Daugh. We shall have many children:—

Lord, how y'ar growne!

My *Palamon*, I hope, will grow, too, finely, Now he's at liberty: Alas, poore Chicken,

He was kept downe with hard meate and ill lodging, 135

But ile kisse him up againe.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. What doe you here? you'l loose the noblest sight

That ev'r was seene.

Iaylor. Are they i'th Field?

Mess. They are. 140

You beare a charge there too.

Iaylor. Ile away straight.

I must ev'n leave you here.

Doctor. Nay, wee'l goe with you;

I will not loose the Fight. 145

Iaylor. How did you like her?

Doctor. Ile warrant you, within these 3. or 4. daies

Ile make her right againe. You must not from her,

But still preserve her in this way.

Wooser. I will. 150

Doc. Lets get her in.

Wooser. Come, sweete, wee'l goe to dinner; And then wee'll play at Cardes.

Daugh. And shall we kisse too?

Wooser. A hundred times. 155

Daugh. And twenty.

Wooser. I, and twenty.

Daugh. And then wee'l sleepe together.

Doc. Take her offer.

Wooser. Yes, marry, will we. 160

Daugh. But you shall not hurt me.

Wooser. I will not, sweete.

Daugh. If you doe, Love, ile cry.

[Floris. Exeunt]

Scæna 3. *(A Place near the Lists.)*

Enter Theseus, Hipolita, Emilia, Perithous: and some Attendants, (T. Tucke: Curtis.)

Emil. Ile no step further.

Per. Will you loose this sight?

Emil. I had rather see a wren hawke at a fly

Then this decision; ev'ry blow that falls

Threats a brave life, each stroake laments 5

The place whereon it fals, and sounds more like

A Bell then blade: I will stay here;

It is enough my hearing shall be punished

With what shall happen—gainst the which there is

No deaffing, but to heare—not taint mine eye With dread sights, it may shun. 11

Pir. Sir, my good Lord,

Your Sister will no further.

145 Fight *Q*, *F*: sight *Dyce* (later edd.), *Litt.* *S. D.* A Place etc. add. *T*: An Apartment in the Palace *Weber*: A part of the forest near the place appointed for the combat *Dyce* 9 happen, *Q* 10 heare; *Q*

Thes. Oh, she must.
 She shall see deeds of honour in their kinde,
 Which sometime show well, pencild. Nature
 now 16
 Shall make and act the Story, the beleife
 Both seald with eye and eare; you must be
 present,
 You are the victours meede, the price, and
 garland
 To crowne the Questions title. 20
Emil. Pardon me;
 If I were there, I'd winke.
Thes. You must be there;
 This Tryall is as t'wer i'th night, and you
 The onely star to shine. 25
Emil. I am extinct;
 There is but envy in that light, which shoves
 The one the other: darkenes, which ever was
 The dam of horreur, who do's stand accurst
 Of many mortall Millions, may even now, 30
 By casting her blacke mantle over both,
 That neither coulede finde other, get her selfe
 Some part of a good name, and many a
 murther
 Set off wherto she's guilty.
Hip. You must goe. 35
Emil. In faith, I will not.
Thes. Why, the knights must kindle
 Their valour at your eye: know, of this war
 You are the Treasure, and must needes be by
 To give the Service pay. 40
Emil. Sir, pardon me;
 The tytle of a kingdome may be tride
 Out of it selfe.
Thes. Well, well, then, at your pleasure;
 Those that remaine with you could wish their
 office 45
 To any of their Enemies.
Hip. Farewell, Sister;
 I am like to know your husband fore your
 selfe
 By some small start of time: he whom the
 gods
 Doe of the two know best, I pray them he 50
 Be made your Lot.
 [Exeunt Theseus, Hipolita, Perithous, &c.
Emil. *Arcite* is gently visagd; yet his eye
 Is like an Engyn bent, or a sharpe weapon
 In a soft sheath; mercy and manly courage
 Are bedfellows in his visage. *Palamon* 55
 Has a most menacing aspect: his brow
 Is grav'd, and seemes to bury what it frownes
 on;
 Yet sometime tis not so, but alters to
 The quality of his thoughts; long time his eye

16 sometime *Q*: Time shall *Ser.* well pencild
Q, *F* 20 questant's *Dyce* (*Inter add.*) 29 dame *F*

Will dwell upon his object. Mellencholly 60
 Becomes him nobly; So do's *Arcites* mirth,
 But *Palamons* sadnes is a kinde of mirth,
 So mingled, as if mirth did make him sad,
 And sadnes, merry; those darker humours
 that
 Sticke misbecomingly on others, on them 65
 Live in faire dwelling.
 [Cornets. *Trompets sound as to a charge.*
Harke, how yon spurs to spirit doe incite
 The Princes to their proofe! *Arcite* may win
 me,
 And yet may *Palamon* wound *Arcite* to
 The spoyling of his figure. O, what pittie 70
 Enough for such a chance; if I were by,
 I might doe hurt, for they would glance their
 eies
 Toward my Seat, and in that motion might
 Omit a ward, or forfeit an offence
 Which crav'd that very time: it is much
 better 75
 I am not there; oh better never borne
 Then minister to such harme. [Cornets. *A
 great cry and noice within, crying 'a
 Palamon'.*] What is the chance?

Enter Servant.

Ser. The Crie's 'a *Palamon*'.
Emil. Then he has won! Twas ever
 likely;
 He lookd all grace and successe, and he is 80
 Doubtlesse the prim'st of men: I pre'thee, run
 And tell me how it goes.
 [Showt, and Cornets: *Crying, 'a Palamon.'*
Ser. Still *Palamon*.
Emil. Run and enquire. Poore Servant,
 thou hast lost;
 Vpon my right side still I wore thy picture, 85
Palamons on the left: why so, I know not;
 I had no end in't else, chance would have
 it so.
 On the sinister side the heart lyes; *Palamon*
 Had the best boding chance. [Another cry, and
 showt within, and Cornets.] This burst of
 clamour
 Is sure th'end o'th Combat. 90

Enter Servant.

Ser. They saide that *Palamon* had *Arcites*
 body
 Within an inch o'th Pyramid, that the cry
 Was generall 'a *Palamon*': But, anon,
 Th'Assistants made a brave redemption, and

65 them *Q*, *F*: him *Ser.*, etc. 66 in a fair *Ser.*
 74 Defence conj. *Sy.* 77 *S. D.* after 75 *Q* 87 in't;
 else chance *Q*, *F*: in't; Chance *Ser.* else! less
 conj. *Sy.* 89 *S. D.* after 87 *Q*

The two bold Tytlers, at this instant are 95
Hand to hand at it.

Emil. Were they metamorphis'd
Both into one! oh why? there were no woman
Worth so compos'd a Man: their single share,
Their nobleness peculiar to them, gives 100

The prejudice of disparity, values shortness,
[*Cornets.* Cry within, *Arcite*, *Arcite*.]

To any Lady breathing—More exulting?
Palamon still?

Ser. Nay, now the sound is *Arcite*. 104

Emil. I pre'thee, lay attention to the Cry.

[*Cornets.* A great shout and cry, '*Arcite*,
victory!']

Set both thine eares to'th busines.

Ser. The cry is
'*Arcite*', and 'victory', harke: '*Arcite*, vic-
tory!'

The Combats consummation is proclaim'd
By the wind Instruments. 110

Emil. Halfe sights saw
That *Arcite* was no babe; god's lyd, his riches
And costliness of spirit look't through him, it
could

No more be hid in him then fire in flax,
Then humble banckes can goe to law with
waters, 115

That drift windes force to raging: I did thinke
Good *Palamon* would miscarry; yet I knew not
Why I did thinke so; Our reasons are not
prophets,

When oft our fancies are. They are comming
off: 119

Alas, poore *Palamon*! [*Cornets.*]

Enter Theseus, Hipolita, Pirithous, Arcite
as victor, and attendants, &c.

Thes. Lo, where our Sister is in expectation,
Yet quaking, and unsettled.—Fairest *Emily*,
The gods by their divine arbitrament 123
Have given you this Knight; he is a good one
As ever strooke at head. Give me your hands;
Receive you her, you him; be plighted with
A love that growes, as you decay.

Arcite. *Emily*,
To buy you, I have lost what's dearest to me,
Save what is bought, and yet I purchase
cheapely, 130

As I doe rate your value.

Thes. O loved Sister,
He speakes now of as brave a Knight as ere
Did spur a noble Steed: Surely, the gods
Would have him die a Batchelour, least his
race. 135

Should shew i'th world too godlike: His
behaviour

95 Tytlers *Tonson*: Tilters *Ser.* 100 Om. *F.* *Ser.*

So charmed me, that me thought *Alcides* was
To him a sow of lead: if I could praise
Each part of him to'th all I have spoke, your
Arcite

Did not loose by't; For he that was thus good
Encountred yet his Better. I have heard 141
Two emulous *Philomels* beate the eare o'th
night

With their contentious throates, now one the
higher,

Anon the other, then againe the first,
And by and by out breasted, that the sence 145
Could not be judge betweene 'em: So it far'd
Good space betweene these kinsmen; till
heavens did

Make hardly one the winner. Weare the Gir-
lond 148

With joy that you have won: For the subdude,
Give them our present Iustice, since I know
Their lives but pinch 'em; Let it here be done.
The Sceane's not for our seeing, goe we hence,
Right joyfull, with some sorrow.—Arme your
prize,

I know you will not loose her.—*Hipolita*,
I see one eye of yours conceives a teare 155
The which it will deliver. [*Florish.*]

Emil. Is this wyunning?
Oh all you heavenly powers, where is your
mercy?

But that your wils have saide it must be so,
And charge me live to comfort this unfriended,
This miserable Prince, that cuts away 161
A life more worthy from him then all women,
I should, and would, die too.

Hip. Infinite pitty,
That fowre such eies should be so fixd on one
That two must needes be blinde fort. 166

Thes. So it is. [*Exeunt.*]

Scæna 4. (*The same; a Block prepared.*)

Enter Palamon and his Knights pyniond:
Iaylor, Executioner, &c. Gard.

Ther's many a man alive that hath out liv'd
The love o'th people; yea, i'th selfesame state
Stands many a Father with his childe; some
comfort

We have by so considering: we expire
And not without mens pitty. To live still, 5
Have their good wishes; we prevent
The loathsome misery of age, beguile
The Gowt and Rheume, that in lag howres
attend

139 to'th all *Q:* to thee. All *T* 158 your *F*, etc.:
you *Q*. *S. D.* The same etc. *add. Litt.*: The same
part of the forest as in Act III, Scene VI. *Dyce*:
An open place in the City with a Scaffold *Weber*

For grey approachers; we come towards the gods

Yong and unwapper'd, not halting under Crymes 10

Many and stale: that sure shall please the gods,

Sooner than such, to give us Nectar with 'em, For we are more cleare Spirits. My deare kinsemen,

Whose lives (for this poore comfort) are laid downe,

You have sould 'em too too cheape. 15

1. K. What ending could be Of more content? ore us the victors have Fortune, whose title is as momentary, As to us death is certaine: A graine of honour They not ore'-weigh us. 20

2. K. Let us bid farewell; And with our patience anger tottring Fortune, Who at her certain'st reeles.

3. K. Come; who begins?

Pal. Ev'n he that led you to this Barket shall 25

Taste to you all.—Ah ha, my Friend, my Friend,

Your gentle daughter gave me freedome once; You'l see't done now for ever: pray, how do'es she?

I heard she was not well; her kind of ill Gave me some sorrow. 30

Taylor. Sir, she's well restor'd, And to be marryed shortly.

Pal. By my short life, I am most glad on't; 'Tis the latest thing I shall be glad of; pre'thee tell her so: 35

Commend me to her, and to peece her portion, Tender her this. (*Gives purse.*)

1. K. Nay lets be offerers all.

2. K. Is it a maide?

Pal. Verily, I thinke so, 40

A right good creature, more to me deserving Then I can quight or speake of.

All K. Commend us to her.

[*They give their purses.*]

Taylor. The gods requight you all, And make her thankfull. 45

Pal. Adiew; and let my life be now as short, As my leave taking. [*Lies on the Blocke.*]

1. K. Leade, couragious Cosin.

2. K. Wee'll follow cheerefully.

[*A great noise within crying, 'run, save, hold!'*]

Enter in hast a Messenger.

Mess. Hold, hold! O hold, hold, hold! 50

10 unwapper'd Q, F: unwapp'd *Scw.*: unwappen'd *Kn.* S. D. Gives purse add. *Dyce* 49 Prefix 1. 2. K. Q

Enter Pirithous in haste.

Pir. Hold! ho! It is a cursed hast you made,

If you have done so quickly. Noble *Palamon*, The gods will shew their glory in a life, That thou art yet to leade.

Pal. Can that be, 55

When *Venus*, I have said, is false? How doe things fare?

Pir. Arise, great Sir, and give the tydings eare

That are most dearly sweet and bitter.

Pal. What

Hath wakt us from our dreame? 60

Pir. List then: your Cosen, Mounted upon a Steed that *Emily* Did first bestow on him, a blacke one, owing Not a hayre worth of white—which some will say

Weakens his price, and many will not buy 65 His goodnessse with this note: Which superstition

Heere findes allowance—On this horse is *Arcite*

Trotting the stones of *Athens*, which the *Calkins*

Did rather tell then trample; for the horse Would make his length a mile, if't pleas'd his

Rider 70

To put pride in him: as he thus went counting The flinty pavement, dancing, as t'wer, to'th Musicke

His owne hooves made; (for as they say from iron

Came Musickes origen) what envious Flint, Cold as old *Saturne*, and like him possest 75

With fire malevolent, darted a Sparke, Or what feirce sulphur else, to this end made,

I comment not;—the hot horse, hot as fire, Tooke Toy at this, and fell to what disorder

His power could give his will; bounds, comes on end, 80

Forgets schoole dooing, being therein traind, And of kind mannadge; pig-like he whines

At the sharpe Rowell, which he freats at rather Then any jot obaies; seekes all foule meanes

Of boystrous and rough Iadrie, to dis-seate 85 His Lord, that kept it bravely: when nought serv'd,

When neither Curb would cracke, girth breake nor diffing plunges

Dis-roote his Rider whence he grew, but that He kept him twene his legges, on his hind

hoofes

55 Ends when *Dyce* 58 dearly *Scw.*, etc.: early Q, F: ? fearily

on end he stands, 90

That *Arcites* leggs, being higher then his head,
Seem'd with strange art to hang: His victors
wreath

Even then fell off his head: and presently
Backward the lade comes ore, and his full
poyze

Becomes the Riders loade: yet is he living, 95
But such a vessell tis, that floates but for
The surge that next approaches: he much
desires

To have some speech with you: Loe he
appeares.

*Enter Theseus, Hipolita, Emilia, Arcite
in a chaire.*

Pal. O miserable end of our alliance!
The gods are mightie, *Arcite*: if thy heart, 100
Thy worthie, manly heart, be yet unbroken,
Give me thy last words; I am *Palamon*,
One that yet loves thee dying.

Arc. Take *Emilia*
And with her all the worlds joy: Reach thy
hand: 105
Farewell: I have told my last houre. I was
false,

Yet never treacherous: Forgive me, Cosen:—
One kisse from faire *Emilia*: Tis done:
Take her: I die.

Pal. Thy brave soule seeke *Elizium*. 110
Emil. Ile close thine eyes, Prince; blessed
soules be with thee!

Thou art a right good man, and while I live,
This day I give to teares.

Pal. And I to honour.
Thes. In this place first you fought: ev'n
very here 115

I sundred you: acknowledge to the gods
Our thanks that you are living.
His part is playd, and though it were too short,
He did it well: your day is lengthned, and
The blissefull dew of heaven do's arowze you.
The powerfull *Venus* well hath grac'd her
Altar, 121

And given you your love: Our Master *Mars*
Hath vouch'd his Oracle, and to *Arcite* gave
The grace of the Contention: So the Deities
Have shewd due justice: Beare this hence.

Pal. O Cosen, 126
That we should things desire, which doe cost us
The losse of our desire! That nought could buy
Deare love, but losse of deare love!

90 So in Q: the first part of the line appears to have
been lost. 92 victors Q 100 gods Q: Cords conj.
Th. 117 Our Q. F: Your conj. Dyce 123 Hath
pr. of. : Hast Q. F: Has Sec.

Thes. Never Fortune 130
Did play a subtler Game: The conquerd
triumphes,

The victor has the Losse: yet in the passage
The gods have beene most equall: *Palamon*,
Your kinsman hath confest the right o'th
Lady

Did lye in you, for you first saw her, and 135
Even then proclaimd your fancie: He restord
her

As your stolne Iewell, and desir'd your spirit
To send him hence forgiven; The gods my
justice

Take from my hand, and they themselves
become

The Executioners: Leade your Lady off; 140
And call your Lovers from the stage of death,
Whom I adopt my Frinds. A day or two
Let us looke sadly, and give grace unto
The Funerall of *Arcite*; in whose end

The visages of Bridegroomes weele put on 145
And smile with *Palamon*; for whom an houre,
But one houre, since, I was as dearely sorry,
As glad of *Arcite*: and am now as glad,
As for him sorry. O you heavenly Charmers,
What things you make of us! For what we
lacke 150

We laugh, for what we have, are sorry: still
Are children in some kind. Let us be thanke-
full

For that which is, and with you leave dispute
That are above our question. Let's goe off,
And beare us like the time. [*Florish. Exeunt.*]

EPILOGVE

*I would now aske ye how ye like the Play,
But, as it is with Schoole Boyes, cannot say,
I am cruell fearefull: pray, yet stay a while,
And let me looke upon ye: No man smile?
Then it goes hard, I see; He that has 5
Lov'd a yong handsome wench, then, show his
face—*

*Tis strange if none be heere—and if he will
Against his Conscience, let him hisse, and kill
Our Market: Tis in vaine, I see, to stay yee;
Have at the worst can come, then! Now what
say ye? 10*

*And yet mistake me not: I am not bold;
We have no such cause. If the tale we have told
(For tis no other) any way content ye
(For to that honest purpose it was ment ye)
We have our end; and ye shall have ere long, 15
I dare say, many a better, to prolong
Your old loves to us: we, and all our might.
Rest at your service. Gentlemen, good night.
[*Florish.*]*

FINIS

THE
BIRTH
OF
MERLIN:

OR,
The Childe hath found his Father.

As it hath been several times Acted
with great Applause.

Written by *William Shakespear*, and
William Rowley.

Placere cupio.



LONDON: Printed by *Tho. Johnson* for *Francis Kirkman*, and
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Q = Quarto of 1662
T = Tyrrell, 1851
D = Delius, 1856
Molt. = Moltke, 1869
WP = Warnke and Proescholdt, 1887
pr. ed. = present editor

THE BIRTH OF MERLIN :

OR, THE CHILDE HATH FOUND HIS FATHER

Drammatis Personæ

The Scene *Brittain*.

Aurelius, King of *Brittain*.
Vortiger, King of (*Welsh*) *Brittain*.
Vter Pendragon the Prince, Brother to *Aurelius*.
Donobert, a Nobleman, and Father to *Constantia* and *Modestia*.
The Earl of *Gloster*, and Father to *Edwyn*.
Edoll, Earl of *Chester*, and General to King *Aurelius*.
Cador, Earl of *Cornwal*, and Suitor to *Constantia*.
Edwyn, Son to the Earl of *Gloster*, and Suitor to *Modestia*.
Toclío and *Oswald*, two Noblemen.
Merlin the Prophet.
Anselme the Hermit, after Bishop of *Winchester*.
Clown, brother to *Jone*, mother of *Merlin*.

Sir Nichodemus Nothing, a Courtier.
The Devil, father of *Merlin*.
Ostorius, the Saxon General.
Octa, a Saxon Nobleman.
Proximus, a Saxon Magician.
Two Bishops.
Two Saxon Lords.
Two of *Edols* Captains.
Two Gentlemen.
A little Antick Spirit.
Artesia, Sister to *Ostorius* the Saxon General.
Constantia }
and } Daughters to *Donobert*.
Modestia }
Jone Goe-too't, Mother of *Merlin*.
A Waiting-woman to *Artesia*.
Lucina, Queen of the Shades.

ACTUS I.

(SCENE I.

A Room in the Castle of Lord Donobert.)

Enter Donobert, Gloster, Cador, Edwin, Constantia, and Modestia.

Cador. You teach me language, sir, as one that knows

The Debt of Love I owe unto her Vertues;
Wherein like a true Courtier I have fed
My self with hope of fair Success, and now
Attend your wisht consent to my long Suit. 5

Dono. Believe me, youthful Lord,
Time could not give an opportunity
More fitting your desires, always provided,
My Daughters love be suited with my Grant.

Cador. 'Tis the condition, sir, her Promise seal'd. 10

Dono. Ist so, *Constantia*?

Constan. I was content to give him words for oathes;

He swore so oft he lov'd me—

Dono. That thou believest him?

Const. He is a man, I hope. 15

Dono. That's in the trial, Girl.

Const. However, I am a woman, sir.

Dono. The Law's on thy side then: sha't have a Husband,

I, and a worthy one. Take her, brave *Cornwal*,

And make our happiness great as our wishes.

Cador. Sir, I thank you. 21

Glost. Double the fortunes of the day, my Lord,

And crown my wishes too: I have a son here,

Who in my absence would protest no less

Unto your other Daughter. 25

Dono. Ha, *Gloster*, is it so? what says Lord *Edwin*?

Will she protest as much to thee?

Edwin. Else must she want some of her Sisters faith, Sir.

Modesta. Of her credulity much rather, Sir:

My Lord, you are a Soldier, and methinks 30
The height of that Profession should diminish

All heat of Loves desires,

Being so late employ'd in blood and ruine.

Edwin. The more my Conscience tyes me to repair

The worlds losses in a new succession. 35

Modest. Necessity, it seems, ties your affections then,

And at that rate I would unwillingly
Be thrust upon you; a wife is a dish soon cloyes, sir.

Edwin. Weak and diseased appetites it may.

20 your happiness WP

The entire play, except the rhyming couplets, is printed as prose in Q: corr. D Scene I. etc. add. T 2 her WP: their Q

Modest. Most of your making have dull
stomacks, sir. 40

Dono. If that be all, Girl, thou shalt quicken
him;

Be kinde to him, *Modesta*: Noble *Edwin*,
Let it suffice, what's mine in her speaks
yours;

For her consent, let your fair suit go on,
She is a woman, sir, and will be won. 45

Edwin. You give me comfort, sir.

Enter Tocio.

Dono. Now, *Tocio*?

Tocio. The King, my honor'd Lords,
requires your presence,
And calls a Councel for return of answer
Unto the parling enemy, whose Embassadors
Are on the way to Court.

Dono. So suddenly? 50
Chester, it seems, has ply'd them hard at
war,

They sue so fast for peace, which by my advice
They ne're shall have, unless they leave the
Realm.

Come, noble *Gloster*, let's attend the King.
It lies, sir, in your Son to do me pleasure, 55
And save the charges of a Wedding Dinner;
If you'll make haste to end your Love affairs,
One cost may give discharge to both my
cares. [*Exit Dono., Glost.*]

Edwin. I'll do my best.

Cador. Now, *Tocio*, what stirring news at
Court? 60

Tocio. Oh, my Lord, the Court's all fill'd
with rumor, the City with news, and the Coun-
try with wonder, and all the bells i'th' King-
dom must proclaim it, we have a new Holy-
day a coming. 65

Consta. A holy-day! for whom? for thee?

Tocio. Me, Madam! 'sfoot! I'de be loath
that any man should make a holy-day for me
yet:

In brief, 'tis thus: there's here arriv'd at
Court, 70

Sent by the Earl of *Chester* to the King,
A man of rare esteem for holyness,
A reverent hermit, that by miracle
Not onely saved our army,
But without aid of man o'rethrew 75
The pagan Host, and with such wonder, sir,
As might confirm a Kingdom to his faith.

Edwin. This is strange news, indeed;
where is he?

Tocio. In conference with the King, that
much respects him.

Modest. Trust me, I long to see him. 80

46 S. D. after 45 Q

Tocio. Faith, you will finde no great plea-
sure in him, for ought that I can see, Lady.
They say he is half a Prophet too: would he
could tell me any news of the lost Prince;
there's twenty Talents offer'd to him that finds
him. 86

Cador. Such news was breeding in the
morning.

Tocio. And now it has birth and life, sir.
If fortune bless me, I'll once more search
those woods where then we lost him; I know
not yet what fate may follow me. [*Exit.*]

Cador. Fortune go with you, sir. Come,
fair Mistriss, 92

Your Sister and Lord *Edwin* are in game,
And all their wits at stake to win the Set.

Consta. My sister has the hand yet; we had
best leave them: 95

She will be out anon as well as I;
He wants but cunning to put in a Dye.

[*Exit Cador, Constan.*]

Edwin. You are a cunning Gamester,
Madam.

Modest. It is a desperate Game, indeed,
this Marriage,
Where there's no winning without loss to
either. 100

Edwin. Why, what but your perfection,
noble Lady,

Can bar the worthiness of this my suit?
If so you please I count my happiness
From difficult obtaining, you shall see
My duty and observance. 105

Modest. There shall be place to neither,
noble sir;

I do beseech you, let this mild Reply
Give answer to your suit: for here I vow,
If e're I change my Virgin name, by you 109
It gains or looses.

Edwin. My wishes have their crown.

Modest. Let them confine you then,
As to my promise you give faith and credence.

Edwin. In your command my willing
absence speaks it. [*Exit.*]

Modest. Noble and vertuous: could I dream
of Marriage,

I should affect thee, *Edwin.* Oh, my soul, 115
Here's something tells me that these best of
creatures,

These models of the world, weak man and
woman,

Should have their souls, their making, life,
and being,

To some more excellent use: if what the
sense

Calls pleasure were our ends, we might justly
blame 120

Great natures wisdom, who rear'd a building
Of so much art and beauty to entertain
A guest so far incertain, so imperfect:
If onely speech distinguish us from beasts,
Who know no inequality of birth or place, 125
But still to fly from goodness: oh, how base
Were life at such a rate! No, no, that power
That gave to man his being, speech and wisdom,
Gave it for thankfulness. To him alone 129
That made me thus, may I whence truly know,
I'll pay to him, not man, the love I owe. [Exit.

(SCENE II.

The British Court.)

Flourish Cornets. Enter Aurelius King of Brittain, Donobert, Gloster, Cador, Edwin, Tocllo, Oswald, and Attendants.

Aurelius. No tiding of our brother yet?
'Tis strange,
So ne're the Court, and in our own Land too,
And yet no news of him: oh, this loss
Tempers the sweetness of our happy conquests
With much untimely sorrow.

Dono. Royal sir, 5
His safety being unquestion'd should to time
Leave the redress of sorrow: were he dead,
Or taken by the foe, our fatal loss
Had wanted no quick Herald to disclose it.

Aurelius. That hope alone sustains me, 10
Nor will we be so ingrateful unto heaven
To question what we fear with what we enjoy.
Is answer of our message yet return'd
From that religious man, the holy Hermit,
Sent by the Earl of *Chester* to confirm us 15
In that miraculous act? For 'twas no less:
Our Army being in rout, nay, quite o'rethrown,
As *Chester* writes, even then this holy man,
Arm'd with his cross and staff, went smiling
on,
And boldly fronts the foe; at sight of whom 20
The Saxons stood amaz'd: for, to their seeming,

Above the Hermit's head appear'd such
brightness,
Such clear and glorious beams, as if our men
March't all in fire; wherewith the *Pagans* fled,
And by our troops were all to death pursu'd.

Glost. 'Tis full of wonder, sir. 26

Aurel. Oh, *Gloster*, he's a jewel worth
a Kingdom.

Where's *Oswald* with his answer?

Oswald. 'Tis here, my Royal Lord.

Aurel. In writing? will he not sit with us?

130 thence D Scene II, etc. add. T 6 should] you should WP 22 Hermit Q

Oswo. His Orizons perform'd, he bad me say,
He would attend with all submission.

Aurel. Proceed to council then; and let
some give order,
The Embassadors being come to take our
answer,

They have admittance. *Oswold, Tocllo,* 35
Be it your charge!—(Exeunt *Os. and Tocllo.*)

And now, my Lords, observe
The holy council of this reverend Hermit:
[reads] As you respect your safety, limit not
That onely power that hath protected you;
Trust not an open enemy too far, 40
He's yet a looser, and knows you have won;
Mischiefs not ended are but then begun.

Anselme the Hermit.

Dono. Powerful and pithie, which my
advice confirms:

No man leaves physick when his sickness
slakes,

But doubles the receipts: the word of Peace 45
Seems fair to blood-shot eyes, but being appli'd
With such a medicine as blinds all the sight
Argues desire of Cure, but not of Art.

Aurel. You argue from defects; if both the
name

And the condition of the Peace be one, 50
It is to be prefer'd, and in the offer,
Made by the *Saxon*, I see nought repugnant.

Glost. The time of Truce requir'd for thirty
days

Carries suspicion in it, since half that space
Will serve to strength their weakned Regi-
ment. 55

Cador. Who in less time will undertake to
free

Our Country from them?

Edwin. Leave that unto our fortune.

Dono. Is not our bold and hopeful General
Still Master of the field, their Legions faln,
The rest intrencht for fear, half starv'd, and
wounded, 60

And shall we now give o're our fair advan-
tage?

'Fore heaven, my Lord, the danger is far more
In trusting to their words then to their weapons.

Enter Oswald.

Oswald. The Embassadors are come, sir.

Aurel. Conduct them in.
We are resolv'd, my Lords, since policy fail'd
In the beginning, it shall have no hand 66
In the conclusion.

That heavenly power that hath so well begun

36 S. D. add. T 48 not of Q: not knowledge of T
55 regiments T. 56 Who] We WP 62 'Fore T:
force Q

Their fatal overthrow, I know, can end it:
From which fair hope my self will give them
answer. 70

*Flourish Cornets. Enter Artesia with the
Saxon Lords.*

Dono. What's here? a woman Orator?

Aurel. Peace, *Donobert!*—Speak, what are
you, Lady?

Artes. The sister of the Saxon General,
Warlike *Ostorius* the East *Anglese* King;
My name *Artesia*, who in terms of love 75
Brings peace and health to great *Aurelius*,
Wishing she may return as a present
As she makes tender of.

Aurel. The fairest present e're mine eyes
were blest with!—

Command a chair there for this *Saxon*
Beauty:— 80

Sit, Lady, we'll confer: your warlike brother
Sues for a peace, you say?

Artes. With endless love unto your State
and Person.

Aurel. Ha's sent a moving Orator, believe
me.—

What thinkst thou, *Donobert?* 85

Dono. Believe me, sir, were I but yong
agen,

This gilded pill might take my stomach
quickly.

Aurel. True, thou art old: how soon we do
forget

Our own defects! Fair damsel,—oh, my
tongue

Turns Traitor, and will betray my heart—
sister to 90

Our enemy:—'sdeath, her beauty mazes me,
I cannot speak if I but look on her.—

What's that we did conclude?

Dono. This, Royal Lord—

Aurel. Pish, thou canst not utter it:—
Fair'st of creatures, tell the King your Brother,

That we, in love—ha!—and honor to our
Country, 96

Command his Armies to depart our Realm.
But if you please, fair soul—Lord *Donobert*,
Deliver you our pleasure.

Dono. I shall, sir:

Lady, return, and certifie your brother— 100

Aurel. Thou art too blunt and rude! return
so soon?

Fie, let her stay, and send some messenger
To certifie our pleasure.

Dono. What meanes your Grace?

Aurel. To give her time of rest to her long
Journey;

79 presence T

We would not willingly be thought uncivil. 105
Artes. Great King of *Brittain*, let it not
seem strange,

To embrace the Princely Offers of a friend,
Whose vertues with thine own, in fairest merit,
Both States in Peace and Love may now inherit.

Aurel. She speakes of Love agen: 110

Sure, 'tis my fear, she knows I do not hate her.

Artes. Be, then, thy self, most great

Aurelius,

And let not envy nor a deeper sin

In these thy Councillors deprive thy goodness

Of that fair honor we in seeking peace 115

Give first to thee, who never use to sue

But force our wishes. Yet, if this seem light,

Oh, let my sex, though worthless your respect,

Take the report of thy humanity,

Whose mild and vertuous life loud fame dis-
playes, 120

As being o'recome by one so worthy praise.

Aurel. She has an Angels tongue.—Speak
still.

Dono. This flattery is gross, sir; hear no
more on't.—

Lady, these childish complements are needless;
You have your answer, and believe it, Madam,

His Grace, though yong, doth wear within his
breast 126

Too grave a Councillor to be seduc't

By smoothing flattery or oily words.

Artes. I come not, sir, to wooe him.

Dono. 'Twere folly, if you should; you
must not wed him. 130

(*Aur.*) Shame take thy tongue! Being old
and weak thy self,

Thou doat'st, and looking on thine own defects,
Speak'st what thou'dst wish in me. Do I com-
mand

The deeds of others, mine own act not free?

Be pleas'd to smile or frown, we respect nei-
ther: 135

My will and rule shall stand and fall together.

Most fair *Artesia*, see the King descends

To give thee welcome with these warlike
Saxons,

And now on equal terms both sues and grants:

Instead of Truce, let a perpetual League 140

Seal our united bloods in holy marriage;

Send the East Angles King this happy news,

That thou with me hast made a League for
ever,

And added to his state a friend and brother.

Speak, dearest Love, dare you confirm this
Title? 145

Artes. I were no woman to deny a good

131 *Prefix add. T* Shame . . tongue twice T 146

a good om. T

So high and noble to my fame and Country.

Aurel. Live, then, a Queen in *Brittain*.

Glost. He means to marry her.

Dono. Death! he shall marry the devil first!

Marry a *Pagan*, an Idolater? 151

Cador. He has won her quickly.

Edwin. She was woo'd afore she came, sure,
Or came of purpose to conclude the Match.

Aurel. Who dares oppose our will? My
Lord of *Gloster*, 155

Be you Embassador unto our Brother,
The Brother of our Queen *Artesia*;
Tell him for such our entertainment looks him,
Our marriage adding to the happiness
Of our intended joys; mans good or ill 160
In this like waves agree, come double still.

Enter Hermit.

Who's this? the Hermit? Welcome, my happiness!

Our Countries hope, most reverent holy man,
I wanted but thy blessing to make perfect
The infinite sum of my felicity. 165

Hermit. Alack, sweet Prince, that happiness is yonder,

Felicity and thou art far asunder;
This world can never give it.

Aurel. Thou art deceiv'd: see here what
I have found,

Beauty, Alliance, Peace, and strength of
Friends, 170

All in this all exceeding excellence:

The League's confirm'd.

Hermit. With whom, dear Lord?

Aurel. With the great Brother of this
Beauteous woman,

The Royal Saxon King

Hermit. Oh, then I see, 175
And fear thou art too near thy misery.

What magick could so linck thee to this mis-
chief?

By all the good that thou hast reapt by me,
Stand further from destruction.

Aurel. Speak as a man, and I shall hope to
obey thee. 180

Hermit. Idolaters, get hence! fond King,
let go:

Thou hug'st thy ruine and thy Countries woe.
Dono. Well spoke, old Father; too him,
bait him soundly.

Now, by heavens blest Lady, I can scarce keep
patience.

1. *Saxon Lord.* What devil is this? 185

2. *Saxon Lord.* That cursed Christian, by
whose hellish charmes

Our army was o'rethrown.

Hermit. Why do you dally, sir? Oh, tempt
not heaven;

Warm not a serpent in your naked bosom:
Discharge them from your Court.

Aurel. Thou speak'st like madness!

Command the frozen shepherd to the shade,
When he sits warm i'th' Sun; the fever sick
To add more heat unto his burning pain:

These may obey, 'tis less extremity 194
Then thou enjoynst to me. Cast but thine eye

Upon this beauty, do it, I'll forgive thee,
Though jealousy in others findes no pardon;
Then say thou dost not love; I shall then swear
Th'art immortal and no earthly man.

Oh, blame then my mortality, not me. 200

Hermit. It is thy weakness brings thy
misery,

Unhappy Prince.

Aurel. Be milder in thy doom.

Hermit. 'Tis you that must indure heavens
doom, which fain

Remember's just.

Artes. Thou shalt not live to see it.—How
fares my Lord? 205

If my poor presence breed dislike, great Prince,
I am no such neglected soul, will seek
To tie you to your word.

Aurel. My word, dear Love! may my
Religion,

Crown, State, and Kingdom fail, when I fail
thee. 210

Command Earl *Chester* to break up the camp
Without disturbance to our *Saxon* friends;

Send every hour swift posts to hasten on
The King her Brother, to conclude this League,

This endless happy Peace of Love and Marriage;
Till when provide for Revels, and give charge

That nought be wanting which (may) make
our Triumphs 217

Sportful and free to all. If such fair blood
Ingender ill, man must not look for good.

[Exit all but *Hermit*. *Florish*.]

Enter Modestia, reading in a book.

Modesta. How much the oft report of this
blest *Hermit* 220

Hath won on my desires; I must behold him:
And sure this should be he. Oh, the world's

folly,
Proud earth and dust, how low a price bears
goodness!

All that should make man absolute shines in
him.

Much reverent Sir, may I without offence 225
Give interruption to your holy thoughts?

198 love D: love me Q: love like me T 217 may
make D: make Q: will make T 219 men T

Hermit. What would you, Lady?
Modest. That which till now ne're found
 a language in me:
 I am in love.
Her. In Love? with what?
Modest. With vertue.
Her. There's no blame in that. 230
Modest. Nay, sir, with you, with your
 Religious Life,
 Your Vertue, Goodness, if there be a name
 To express affection greater, that,
 That would I learn and utter: Reverent Sir,
 If there be any thing to bar my suit, 235
 Be charitable and expose it; your prayers
 Are the same Orizons which I will number.
 Holy Sir,
 Keep not instruction back from willingness,
 Possess me of that knowledge leads you on 240
 To this humility; for well I know,
 Were greatness good, you would not live so
 low.
Her. Are you a Virgin?
Modest. Yes, Sir.
Her. Your name? 245
Modest. Modesta.
Her. Your name and vertues meet, a
 Modest Virgin:
 Live ever in the sanctimonious way
 To Heaven and Happiness. There's goodness
 in you,
 I must instruct you further. Come, look up,
 Behold yon firmament: there sits a power, 251
 Whose foot-stool is this earth. Oh, learn this
 lesson,
 And practise it: he that will climb so high,
 Must leave no joy beneath to move his eye.

[Exit.]

Modest. I apprehend you, sir: on Heaven
 I fix my love, 255
 Earth gives us grief, our joys are all above;
 For this was man in innocence naked born,
 To show us wealth hinders our sweet return.

[Exit.]

ACTUS II.

(SCENE I.

A Forest.)

Enter Clown and his Sister great with childe.

Clown. Away, follow me no further, I am
 none of thy brother. What, with Childe? great
 with Childe, and knows not whose the Father
 on't! I am asham'd to call thee Sister.

Joan. Believe me, Brother, he was a Gen-
 tleman. 6

233 that Q: than that word D 254 leave Q: let
 T Exit om. T 258 Exeunt T Scene I. etc.
 add. T 3 know T

Clown. Nay, I believe that; he gives arms,
 and legs too, and has made you the Herald to
 blaze 'em: but, *Joan*, sister *Joan*, can
 you tell me his name that did it? how shall
 we call my Cousin, your bastard, when we
 have it? 12

Joan. Alas, I know not the Gentlemans
 name, Brother.

I met him in these woods the last great
 hunting;

He was so kinde and proffer'd me so much,
 As I had not the heart to ask him more. 16

Clown. Not his name? why, this shewes
 your Country breeding now; had you been
 brought up i'th' City, you'd have got a Father
 first, and the childe afterwards: hast thou no
 markes to know him by? 21

Joan. He had most rich Attire, a fair Hat
 and Feather, a gilt Sword, and most excellent
 Hangers.

Clown. Pox on his Hangers, would he had
 bin belt for his labor. 26

Joan. Had you but heard him swear, you
 would have thought—

Clown. I, as you did; swearing and lying
 goes together still. Did his Oathes get you
 with Childe? we shall have a roaring Boy then,
 yfaith. Well, sister, I must leave you. 32

Joan. Dear Brother, stay, help me to finde
 him out,

I'll ask no further.

Clown. 'Sfoot, who should I finde? who
 should I ask for? 36

Joan. Alas, I know not, he uses in these
 woods,

And these are witness of his oathes and pro-
 mise.

Clown. We are like to have a hot suit on't,
 when our best witness's but a Knight a'th'
 Post. 41

Joan. Do but enquire this Forrest, I'll go
 with you;

Some happy fate may guide us till we meet him.

Clown. Meet him? and what name shall
 we have for him, when we meet him? 'Sfoot,
 thou neither knowst him nor canst tell what
 to call him. Was ever man tyr'd with such
 a business, to have a sister got with childe,
 and know not who did it? Well, you shall see
 him, I'll do my best for you, Ile make Pro-
 clamation; if these Woods and Trees, as you
 say, will bear any witness, let them answer.
 Oh yes: If there be any man that wants a
 name will come in for conscience sake, and
 acknowledge himself to be a Whore-Master,

11 call] name D 45 weet Q 53 Oh yes Q:
 Oyes D

he shal have that laid to his charge in an hour,
he shall not be rid on in an age; if he have
Lands, he shall have an heir; if he have
patience, he shall have a wife; if he have
neither Lands nor patience, he shall have a
whore. So ho, boy, so ho, so, so. 61

[*Within*] *Prince Vter.* So ho, boy, so ho,
illo ho, illo ho.

Clown. Hark, hark, sister, there's one
hollows to us; what a wicked world's this!
a man cannot so soon name a whore, but a
knave comes presently: and see where he is;
stand close a while, sister. 68

Enter Prince Vter.

Prince. How like a voice that Eccho spake,
but oh,
My thoughts are lost for ever in amazement.
Could I but meet a man to tell her beauties,
These trees would bend their tops to kiss the
air

That from my lips should give her praises up.

Clown. He talks of a woman, sister.

Joan. This may be he, brother. 75

Clown. View him well; you see, he has
a fair Sword, but his Hangers are faln.

Prince. Here did I see her first, here view
her beauty: 78

Oh, had I known her name, I had been happy.

Clown. Sister, this is he, sure; he knows
not thy name neither. A couple of wise fools
yfaith, to get children, and know not one
another.

Prince. You weeping leaves, upon whose
tender cheeks 84

Doth stand a flood of tears at my complaint,
Who heard my vows and oathes—

Clown. Law, Law, he has been a great
swearer too; tis he, sister.

Prince. For having overtook her;
As I have seen a forward blood-hound strip
The swifter of the cry, ready to seize 91
His wished hopes, upon the sudden view,
Struck with astonishment, at his arriv'd prey,
Instead of seizure stands at fearful bay;
Or like to *Marius* soldiers, who, o'retook, 95
The eye sight killing *Gorgon* at one look
Made everlasting stand: so fear'd my power,
Whose cloud aspir'd the Sun, dissolv'd a
shower.

Pigmalion, then I tasted thy sad fate,
Whose Ivory picture and my fair were one: 100
Our dotage past imagination.
I saw and felt desire—

Clown. Pox a your fingering! did he feel,
sister?

Prince. But enjoy'd not.
Oh fate, thou hadst thy days and nights to
feed

On calm affection; one poor sight was all, 105
Converts my pleasure to perpetual thrall:
Imbracing thine, thou lostest breath and desire,
So I, relating mine, will here expire.

For here I vow to you mournful plants,
Who were the first made happy by her fame,
Never to part hence, till I know her name. 111

Clown. Give me thy hand, sister, *The
Childe has found his Father.* This is he, sure;
as I am a man, had I been a woman, these
kinde words would have won me, I should
have had a great belly too, that's certain. Well,
I'll speak to him.—Most honest and fleshly
minded Gentleman, give me your hand, sir.

Prince. Ha, what art thou, that thus rude
and boldly darest

Take notice of a wretch so much ally'd 120
To misery as I am?

Clown. Nay, Sir, for our aliance, I shall be
found to be a poor brother in Law of your
worships: the Gentlewoman you spake on is
my sister: you see what a clew she spreads;
her name is *Joan Go-too't*. I am her elder,
but she has been at it before me; 'tis a womans
fault.—Pox a this bashfulness! come forward,
Jug, prethee, speak to him. 129

Prince. Have you e're seen me, Lady?

Clown. Seen ye? ha, ha! It seems she has
felt you too: here's a yong *Go-too't* a coming,
sir; she is my sister; we all love to *Go-too't*,
as well as your worship. She's a Maid yet, but
you may make her a wife, when you please, sir.

Prince. I am amaz'd with wonder: Tell me,
woman, 136

What sin have you committed worthy this?

Joan. Do you not know me, sir?

Prince. Know thee! as I do thunder, hell,
and mischief;

Witch, scullion, hag! 140

Clown. I see he will marry her; he speaks
so like a husband.

Prince. Death! I will cut their tongues out
for this blasphemy.

Strumpet, villain, where have you ever seen
me?

Clown. Speak for your self, with a pox to
ye. 146

Prince. Slaves, Ile make you curse your
selves for this temptation.

62 boy *T*: by *Q* 74 talk's *Q* 77 Hanger's *Q*
86 Who? And *Q*: You *D* 91 swiftest *WP* 93 a
stonishment *Q* 95 whom *D*

103 not *T*, etc.: now *Q* 105 On *D*: Or *Q* 109
you *Q*: you, ye *T* 134 a] scarce a conj. *T* 137
you *Q*: I conj. *T* 140 scullion *D*: stallion *Q*

Joan. Oh, sir, if ever you did speak to me,
It was in smoother phrase, in fairer language.

Prince. Lightning consume me, if I ever
saw thee. 150

My rage o'reflowes my blood, all patience flies
me. [Beats her.]

Clown. Hold, I beseech you, sir, I have
nothing to say to you.

Joan. Help, help! murder, murder! 154

Enter Toclío and Oswald.

Toclío. Make haste, Sir, this way the sound
came, it was a (th') wood.

Oswald. See where she is, and the Prince,
the price of all our wishes.

Clown. The Prince, say ye? ha's made a
poor Subject of me, I am sure. 160

Toclío. Sweet Prince, noble *Vter*, speak,
how fare you, sir?

Oswald. Dear sir, recal your self; your fear-
ful absence

Hath won too much already on the grief
Of our sad King, from whom our laboring
search. 165

Hath had this fair success in meeting you.
Toclío. His silence and his looks argue
distraction.

Clown. Nay, he's mad, sure, he will not
acknowledge my sister, nor the childe neither.

Oswald. Let us entreat your Grace along
with us; 171

Your sight will bring new life to the King your
Brother.

Toclío. Will you go, sir?

Prince. Yes, any whether; guide me, all's
hell I see;

Man may change air, but not his misery. 175
[Exit Prince, Toclío.]

Joan. Lend me one word with you, sir.

Clown. Well said, sister, he has a Feather,
and fair Hangers too, this may be he.

Oswald. What would you, fair one?

Joan. Sure, I have seen you in these woods
e're this. 180

Oswald. Trust me, never; I never saw this
place,

Till at this time my friend conducted me.

Joan. The more's my sorrow then.

Oswald. Would I could comfort you.

I am a Bachelor, but it seems you have 185
A husband, you have been foully o'reshot else.

Clown. A womans fault, we are all subject
to go to't, sir.

Enter Toclío.

Toclío. Oswald, away; the Prince will not
stir a foot without you. 190

Oswald. I am coming. Farewel, woman.

Toclío. Prithee, make haste. (Exit Oswald.)

Joan. Good sir, but one word with you,
e're you leave us.

Toclío. With me, fair soul? 195

Clown. Shee'l have a fling at him too; the
Childe must have a Father.

Joan. Have you ne'er seen me, sir?

Toclío. Seen thee? 'Sfoot, I have seen
many fair faces in my time: prithee, look up,
and do not weep so. Sure, pretty wanton, I
have seen this face before. 202

Joan. It is enough, though you ne're see
me more. [sinks down.]

Toclío. 'Sfoot, she's faln: this place is
enchanted, sure; look to the woman, fellow. 202

[Exit.]

Clown. Oh, she's dead, she's dead! As you
are a man, stay and help, sir.—*Joan, Joan,*
sister *Joan*, why, *Joan Go too't*, I say; will
you cast away your self, and your childe, and
me too? what do you mean, sister? 211

Joan. Oh, give me pardon, sir; 'twas too
much joy

Opprest my loving thoughts; I know you were
Too noble to deny me—ha! Where is he?

Clown. Who, the Gentleman? he's gone,
sister. 215

Joan. Oh! I am undone, then! Run, tell
him I did

But faint for joy; dear brother, haste; why dost
thou stay?

Oh, never cease, till he give answer to thee.

Clown. He: which he? what do you call
him, tro? 220

Joan. Unnatural brother,

Shew me the path he took; why dost thou dally?
Speak, oh, which way went he?

Clown. This way, that way, through the
bushes there.

Joan. Were it through fire, 225

The Journey's easie, winged with sweet desire.
[Exit.]

Clown. Hey day, there's some hope of this
yet. Ile follow her for kindreds sake; if she
miss of her purpose now, she'l challenge all
she findes, I see; for if ever we meet with
a two-leg'd creature in the whole Kingdom,
the Childe shall have a Father, that's certain.
[Exit.]

⟨SCENE II.⟩

An Ante-chamber at the British Court.⟩

Loud Musick. Enter two with the Sword and
Mace, Cador, Edwin, two Bishops,
Aurelius, Ostorius, leading Artesia

192 S. D. add. WP 203 you T, etc.: your Q 1
213 thought D Scene II. etc. add. T

Crown'd, Constanca, Modestia, Octa, Proximus a Magician, Donobert, Gloster, Oswold, Tocio; all pass over the Stage. Manet Donobert, Gloster, Edwin, Cador.

Dono. Come, *Gloster*, I do not like this hasty Marriage.

Gloster. She was quickly wooed and won: not six days since

Arrived an enemy to sue for Peace,

And now crown'd Queen of *Brittain*; this is strange.

Dono. Her brother too made as quick speed in coming, 5

Leaving his *Saxons* and his starved Troops, To take the advantage, whilst 'twas offer'd.

'Fore heaven, I fear the King's too credulous; Our Army is discharg'd too.

Gloster. Yes, and our General commanded home. 10

Son *Edwin*, have you seen him since?

Edwin. He's come to Court, but will not view the presence,

Nor speak unto the King; he's so discontent At this so strange alliance with the *Saxon*,

As nothing can persuade his patience. 15

Cador. You know his humor will indure no check,

No, if the King oppose it:

All crosses feeds both his spleen and his impatience;

Those affections are in him like powder, Apt to inflame with every little spark, 20

And blow up all his reason.

Gloster. *Edol* of *Chester* is a noble Soldier.

Dono. So is he, by the Rood, ever most faithful

To the King and Kingdom, how e're his passions guide him.

Enter Edoll with Captains.

Cador. See where he comes, my Lord. 25

Omnes. Welcome to Court, brave Earl.

Edol. Do not deceive me by your flatteries:

Is not the *Saxon* here? the League confirm'd? The Marriage ratifi'd? the Court divided

With Pagan Infidels, the least part Christians, At least in their Commands? Oh, the gods! 31

It is a thought that takes away my sleep, And dulls my senses so I scarcely know you:

Prepare my horses, Ile away to *Chester*.

Capt. What shall we do with our Companies, my Lord? 35

Edol. Keep them at home to increase Cuckolds,

And get some Cases for your Captainships; Smooth up your brows, the wars has spoil'd your faces,

And few will now regard you.

Dono. Preserve your patience, Sir. 40

Edol. Preserve your Honors, Lords, your Countries Safety,

Your Lives and Lands from strangers. What black devil

Could so bewitch the King, so to discharge

A Royal Army in the height of conquest, Nay, even already made victorious, 45

To give such credit to an enemy,

A starved foe, a stragling fugitive,

Beaten beneath our feet, so low dejected,

So servile, and so base, as hope of life

Had won them all to leave the Land for ever?

Dono. It was the Kings will. 51

Edol. It was your want of wisdom,

That should have laid before his tender youth The dangers of a State, where forain Powers

Bandy for Sovereignty with Lawful Kings; 55

Who being settled once, to assure themselves,

Will never fail to seek the blood and life

Of all competitors.

Dono. Your words sound well, my Lord, and point at safety,

Both for the Realm and us; but why did you, Within whose power it lay, as General, 61

With full Commission to dispose the war,

Lend ear to parly with the weakned foe?

Edol. Oh the good Gods!

Cador. And on that parly came this Embassie. 65

Edol. You will hear me?

Edwin. Your letters did declare it to the King,

Both of the Peace, and all Conditions Brought by this *Saxon* Lady, whose fond love

Has thus bewitched him. 70

Edol. I will curse you all as black as hell, Unless you hear me; your gross mistake would

make

Wisdom her self run madding through the streets,

And quarrel with her shadow. Death!

Why kill'd ye not that woman?

Dono. *Glost.* Oh, my Lord! 75

Edol. The great devil take me quick, had I been by,

And all the women of the world were barren, She should have died, e're he had married her

On these conditions.

Cador. It is not reason that directs you thus.

Edol. Then have I none, for all I have directs me. 81

17 No] Not even conj. WP
36 Cuckolds with conj. WP

18 both Q: but D

48 low T, etc.: love Q

75 ye Q: you D

Never was man so palpably abus'd,
So basely marted, bought and sold to scorn.
My Honor, Fame, and hopeful Victories,
The loss of Time, Expences, Blood, and For-
tunes, 85

All vanisht into nothing.

Edwin. This rage is vain, my Lord:
What the King does nor they nor you can
help.

Edol. My Sword must fail me then.

Cador. 'Gainst whom will you expose it?

Edol. What's that to you? 'gainst all the
devils in hell, 91

To guard my country.

Edwin. These are airy words.

Edol. Sir, you tread too hard upon my
patience.

Edwin. I speak the duty of a Subjects faith,
And say agen, had you been here in presence,
What the King did, you had not dar'd to
cross it. 96

Edol. I will trample on his Life and Soul
that says it.

Cador. My Lord!

Edwin. Come, come.

Edol. Now, before heaven—

Cador. Dear sir!

Edol. Not dare? thou liest beneath thy
lungs.

Gloster. No more, son Edwin. 100

Edwin. I have done, sir; I take my leave.

Edol. But thou shalt not, you shall take no
leave of me, Sir.

Dono. For wisdoms sake, my Lord —

Edol. Sir, I'll leave him, and you, and all
of you,

The Court and King, and let my Sword and
friends 105

Shuffle for *Edols* safety: stay you here,
And hug the Saxons, till they cut your throats,
Or bring the Land to servile slavery.

Such yokes of baseness *Chester* must not suffer.
Go, and repent sometimes these foul misdeeds,
For in this League all our whole Kingdom
bleeds, 111

Which Ile prevent, or perish. [*Exit Edol, Capt.*

Glost. See how his rage transports him!

Cador. These passions set apart, a braver
soldier

Breathes not i'th' world this day. 115

Dono. I wish his own worth do not court
his ruine.

The King must Rule, and we must learn to
obay,

True vertue still directs the noble way.

90 expose *Q*: oppose *D* 95 you *T*, etc.: your *Q*
102 shall not *Q* 112 *S. D.* after 113 *Q*

(SCENE III.

Hall of state in the Palace.)

*Loud Musick. Enter Aurelius, Artesia, Ostorius,
Octa, Proximus, Tocllo, Oswold, Hermit.*

Aurel. Why is the Court so dull? me thinks,
each room

And angle of our Palace should appear
Stuck full of objects fit for mirth and triumphs,
To show our high content. *Oswold*, fill wine!

Must we begin the Revels? Be it so, then! 5

Reach me the cup: Ile now begin a Health

To our lov'd Queen, the bright *Artesia*,

The Royal Saxon King, our warlike brother.

Go and command all the whole Court to
pledge it.

Fill to the Hermit there! Most reverent

Anselme, 10

Wee'll do thee Honor first, to pledge my Queen.

Her. I drink no healths, great King, and if

I did,

I would be loath to part with health to those
That have no power to give it back agen.

Aurel. Mistake not, it is the argument of

Love 15

And Duty to our Queen and us.

Artes. But he owes none, it seems.

Her. I do to vertue, Madam: temperate
minds

Covets that health to drink, which nature
gives

In every spring to man; he that doth hold 20

His body but a Tenement at will,

Bestows no cost, but to repair what's ill:

Yet if your healths or heat of Wine, fair
Princes,

Could this old frame or these cras'd limbes
restore,

Or keep out death or sickness, then fill more,
I'll make fresh way for appetite; if no, 26

On such a prodigal who would wealth bestow?

Ostorius. He speaks not like a guest to
grace a wedding.

Enter Tocllo.

Artes. No, sir, but like an envious imposter.

Octa. A Christian slave, a Cinick. 30

Ostor. What vertue could decline your
Kingly spirit

To such respect of him whose magick spells

Met with your vanquisht Troops, and turn'd
your Arms

To that necessity of fight, which, thro dis-
pair

Scene III. etc. add. T Scene II continued D 8
and the *T* 34 which] when *D* through *WP*: the
Q: but for the *T*

Of any hope to stand but by his charms, 35
Had been defeated in a bloody conquest?

Octa. 'Twas magick, hellbred magick did
it, sir,
And that's a course, my Lord, which we
esteem

In all our *Saxon* Wars unto the last
And lowest ebbe of servile treachery. 40

Aurel. Sure, you are deceiv'd, it was the
hand of heaven

That in his vertue gave us victory.
Is there a power in man that can strike fear
Thorough a general camp, or create spirits
In recreant bosoms above present sense? 45

Ostor. To blind the sense there may, with
apparition

Of well arm'd troops within themselves are air,
Form'd into humane shapes, and such that day
Were by that Sorcerer rais'd to cross our
fortunes.

Aurel. There is a law tells us that words
want force 50

To make deeds void; examples must be shown
By instances alike, e're I believe it.

Ostor. 'Tis easily perform'd, believe me, sir:
Propose your own desires, and give but way
To what our Magick here shall straight per-
form, 55

And then let his or our deserts be censur'd.

Aurel. We could not wish a greater
happiness

Then what this satisfaction brings with it.
Let him proceed, fair brother.

Ostor. He shall, sir.
Come, learned *Proximus*, this task be thine:
Let thy great charms confound the opinion 60
This Christian by his spells hath falsly won.

Prox. Great King, propound your wishes,
then:

What persons, of what State, what numbers, or
how arm'd,

Please your own thoughts; they shall appear
before you. 65

Aurel. Strange art! What thinkst thou,
reverent *Hermit*?

Her. Let him go on, sir.

Aurel. Wilt thou behold his cunning?

Her. Right gladly, sir; it will be my joy to
tell,

That I was here to laugh at him and hell. 70

Aurel. I like thy confidence.

Artes. His sawcy impudence! Proceed to
th'trial.

Prox. Speak your desires my Lord, and be
it plac'd

In any angle underneath the Moon,

47 within *Q* (= which within): which in *T*

The center of the Earth, the Sea, the Air, 75
The region of the fire, nay, hell it self,
And I'll present it.

Aurel. Wee'll have no sight so fearful, onely
this:

If all thy art can reach it, show me here 79
The two great Champions of the *Trojan* War,
Achilles and brave *Hector*, our great Ancestor,
Both in their warlike habits, Armor, Shields,
And Weapons then in use for fight.

Prox. 'Tis done, my Lord, command a halt
and silence,

As each man will respect his life or danger. 85
Armel, Plesgeth!

Enter Spirits.

Spirits. Quid vis?

Prox. Attend me.

Aurel. The Apparition comes; on our dis-
pleasure,

Let all keep place and silence. 90

[*Within Drums beat Marches.*

*Enter Proximus, bringing in Hector, attir'd
and arm'd after the Trojan manner, with
Target, Sword, and Battel-ax, a Trumpet
before him, and a Spirit in flame colours
with a Torch; at the other door Achilles
with his Spear and Falchon, a Trumpet,
and a Spirit in black before him; Trumpets
sound alarm, and they manage their wea-
pons to begin the Fight: and after some
Charges, the Hermit steps between them,
at which seeming amaz'd the spirits
tremble. Thunder within.*

Prox. What means this stay, bright *Armel*,
Plesgeth?

Why fear you and fall back?
Renew the Alarms, and enforce the Combat,
Or hell or darkness circles you for ever.

Arm. We dare not. 95

Prox. Hal

Plesgeth. Our charms are all dissolv'd:
Armel, away!

'Tis worse then hell to us, whilest here we
stay. [Exit all.

Her. What! at a Non-plus, sir? command
them back, for shame.

Prox. What power o're-aws my Spells?
Return, you Hell-hounds! 100

Armel, Plesgeth, double damnation seize you!
By all the Infernal powers, the prince of devils
Is in this Hermits habit: what else could force
My Spirits quake or tremble thus?

Her. Weak argument to hide your want of
skill: 105

S. D. Enter Spirit *Q* *S. D.* tremble] and tremble *Q*

Does the devil fear the devil, or war with hell?
They have not been acquainted long, it seems.
Know, mis-believing Pagan, even that Power,
That overthrew your Forces, still lets you see,
He only can controul both hell and thee. 110

Prox. Disgrace and mischief! Ile enforce
new charms,

New spells, and spirits rais'd from the low
Abyss

Of hells unbottom'd depths.

Aurel. We have enough, sir;
Give o're your charms, wee'l finde some other
time

To please your Art. I dare not but acknow-
ledge 115

That heavenly Power my heart stands witness
to:

Be not dismayd, my Lords, at this disaster,
Nor thou, my fairest Queen: we'l change the
Scene

To some more pleasing sports. Lead to your
Chamber. 119

How 'ere in this thy pleasures finde a cross,

Our Joy's too fixed here to suffer loss.

Tocio. Which I shall adde to, sir, with
news I bring:

The Prince, your Brother, lives.

Aurel. Ha!

Tocio. And comes to grace this high and
heaven-knit Marriage. 125

Aurel. Why dost thou flatter me, to make
me think

Such happiness attends me?

Enter Prince Uter and Oswald.

Tocio. His presence speaks my truth, sir.

Dono. Force me, 'tis he: look, *Gloster.*

Glost. A blessing beyond hope, sir. 130

Aurel. Ha! 'tis he: welcome, my second
Comfort.

Artesia, Dearest Love, it is my Brother,
My Princely Brother, all my Kingdoms hope:
Oh, give him welcome, as thou lov'st my health.

Artes. You have so free a welcome, sir,
from me, 135

As this your presence has such power, I swear,
O're me, a stranger, that I must forget
My Countrey, Name, and Friends, and count
this place

My Joy and Birth-right.

Prince. 'Tis shel 'tis she, I swear! oh, ye
good gods, 'tis shel! 140

That fate within those woods where first I saw
her,

Captived my senses, and thus many moneths
Bar'd me from all society of men.

How came she to this place, 144
Brother Aurelius? Speak that Angels name,
Her heaven-blest name, oh, speak it quickly,
Sir.

Aurel. It is *Artesia*, the Royal Saxon
Princess.

Prince. A woman, and no Deity, no feigned
shape,

To mock the reason of admiring sense,
On whom a hope as low as mine may live, 150
Love, and enjoy, dear Brother, may it not?

Aurel. She is all the Good or Vertue thou
canst name,

My Wife, my Queen.

Prince. Ha! your wife!

Artes. Which you shall finde, sir, if that
time and fortune 155

May make my love but worthy of your tryal.

Prince. Oh!

Aurel. What troubles you, dear Brother?

Why with so strange and fixt an eye dost thou
Behold my Joys? 160

Artes. You are not well, sir.

Prince. Yes, yes. — Oh, you immortal
powers,

Why has poor man so many entrances
For sorrow to creep in at, when our sense
Is much too weak to hold his happiness? 165

Oh, say, I was born deaf: and let your silence
Confirm in me the knowing my defect;

At least be charitable to conceal my sin,
For hearing is no less in me, dear Brother.

Aurel. No more! 170

I see thou art a Rival in the Joys

Of my high Bliss. Come, my *Artesia*;

The Day's most prais'd when 'tis ecclipt by
Night,

Great Good must have as great Ill opposite.

Prince. Stay, hear but a word; yet now
I think on't, 175

This is your Wedding-night, and were it mine,
I should be angry with least loss of time.

Artes. Envy speaks no such words, has no
such looks.

Prince. Sweet rest unto you both. 179

Aurel. Lights to our Nuptial Chamber.

Artes. Could you speak so,

I would not fear how much my grief did grow.

Aurel. Lights to our Chamber; on, on, set
on! [Exeunt. *Manet Prince.*

Prince. 'Could you speak so,

I would not fear how much my griefs did
grow.'

Those were her very words; sure, I am waking:
She wrung me by the hand, and spake them to
me 186

With a most passionate affection.
Perhaps she loves, and now repents her choice,
In marriage with my brother. Oh, fond man,
How darest thou trust thy Traitors thoughts,
thus to 190

Betray thy self? 'twas but a waking dream
Wherein thou madest thy wishes speak, not
her,

In which thy foolish hopes strives to prolong
A wretched being. So sickly children play
With health lov'd toys, which for a time delay,
But do not cure the fit. Be, then, a man, 196
Meet that destruction which thou canst not flie.
From not to live, make it thy best to die,
And call her now, whom thou didst hope to wed,
Thy brothers wife: thou art too nere a kin, 200
And such an act above all name's a sin
Not to be blotted out; heaven pardon me!
She's banisht from my bosom now for ever.
To lowest ebbs men justly hope a flood;
When vice grows barren, all desires are good.

Enter Waiting Gentlewoman with a Jewel.

Genl. The noble Prince, I take it, sir? 206

Prince. You speak me what I should be,
Lady.

Genl. Know, by that name, sir, Queen
Artesia greets you.

Prince. Alas, good vertue, how is she mis-
taken!

Genl. Commending her affection in this
Jewel, sir. 210

Prince. She binds my service to her: hal
a Jewel; 'tis

A fair one, trust me, and methinks, it much
Resembles something I have seen with her.

Genl. It is an artificial crab, Sir.

Prince. A creature that goes backward. 215

Genl. True, from the way it looks.

Prince. There is no moral in it aludes to
her self?

Genl. 'Tis your construction gives you that,
sir;

She's a woman.

Prince. And, like this, may use her legs
and eyes 220

Two several ways.

Genl. Just like the Sea-crab,
Which on the Mussel prayes, whilst he bills
at a stone.

Prince. Pretty in troth. Prithee, tell me,
art thou honest?

Genl. I hope I seem no other, sir.

Prince. And those that seem so are some-
times bad enough. 225

190 traitorous *T*, etc. 198 best *Q*: hest *D* 200
ne're *Q*

Genl. If they will accuse themselves for
want of witness,
Let them, I am not so foolish.

Prince. I see th'art wise.
Come, speak me truly: what is the greatest sin?

Genl. That which man never acted; what
has been done

Is as the least, common to all as one. 230

Prince. Dost think thy Lady is of thy
opinion?

Genl. She's a bad Scholar else; I have
brought her up,

And she dares owe me still.

Prince. I, 'tis a fault in greatness, they dare
owe

Many, e're they pay one. But darest thou
Expose thy scholar to my examining? 236

Genl. Yes, in good troth, sir, and pray put
her to't too;

'Tis a hard lesson, if she answer it not.

Prince. Thou know'st the hardest?

Genl. As far as a woman may, sir. 240

Prince. I commend thy plainness.

When wilt thou bring me to thy Lady?

Genl. Next opportunity I attend you, sir.

Prince. Thanks, take this, and commend
me to her.

Genl. Think of your Sea-crab, sir, I pray.
[Exit.

Prince. Oh, by any means, Lady.— 246
What should all this tend to?

If it be Love or Lust that thus incites her,
The sin is horrid and incestuous;

If to betray my life, what hopes she by it? 250
Yes, it may be a practice 'twixt themselves,

To expel the *Brittains* and ensure the State
Through our destructions; all this may be

Valid, with a deeper reach in villany
Then all my thoughts can guess at; — however,

I will confer with her, and if I finde 256
Lust hath given Life to Envy in her minde,

I may prevent the danger: so men wise
By the same step by which they fell, may rise.

Vices are Vertues, if so thought and seen, 260
And Trees with foulest roots branch soonest

green. [Exit.

ACT 3.

SCENE I.

(Before the Palace of King Aurelius.)

Enter Clown and his Sister.

Clown. Come, sister, thou that art all fool,
all mad-woman.

254 Valid *Q*; Veil'd *D* S. D. Before etc. add, *T*
1 that om. *T*

Joan. Prithee, have patience, we are now
at Court. 4

Clown. At Court! ha, ha, that proves thy
madness: was there ever any woman in thy
taking travel'd to Court for a husband? 'Slid,
'tis enough for them to get children, and the
City to keep 'em, and the Countrey to finde
Nurses: every thing must be done in his due
place, sister. 11

Joan. Be but content a while; for, sure,
I know

This Journey will be happy. Oh, dear brother,
This night my sweet Friend came to comfort
me;

I saw him and embrac't him in mine arms. 15

Clown. Why did you not hold him, and call
me to help you?

Joan. Alas, I thought I had been with him
still,

But when I wak't — 19

Clown. Ah! pox of all Leger-heads, then you
were but in a Dream all this while, and we may
still go look him. Well, since we are come to
Court, cast your Cats eyes about you, and
either finde him out you dreamt on, or some
other, for Ile trouble my self no further. 25

Ent(er) Dono(bert), Cador, Edw(in) & Toclío.

See, see, here comes more Courtiers; look
about you; come, pray, view 'em all well; the
old man has none of the marks about him, the
other have both Swords and Feathers: what
thinkest thou of that tall yong Gentleman?

Joan. He much resembles him; but, sure,
my friend, 31

Brother, was not so high of stature.

Clown. Oh, beast, wast thou got a childe
with a short thing too?

Dono. Come, come, Ile hear no more on't:
Go, Lord *Edwin*, 35

Tell her, this day her sister shall be married
To *Cador*, Earl of *Cornwal*; so shall she
To thee, brave *Edwin*, if she'l have my bles-
sing.

Edwin. She is addicted to a single Life,
She will not hear of Marriage. 40

Dono. Tush, fear it not: go you from me
to her,

Use your best skill, my Lord, and if you fail,
I have a trick shall do it: haste, haste about it.

Edwin. Sir, I am gone; 44
My hope is in your help more then my own.

Dono. And worthy *Toclío*, to your care I
must

Commend this business

For Lights and Musick, and what else is
needful.

Toclío. I shall, my Lord. 49

Clown. We would intreat a word, sir.
Come forward, sister. [*Ex. Dono., Toc., Cador.*

Edwin. What lackst thou, fellow?

Clown. I lack a father for a childe, sir.

Edwin. How! a God-father? 54

Clown. No, sir, we mean the own father:
it may be you, sir, for any thing we know;
I think the childe is like you.

Edwin. Like me! prithee, where is it?

Clown. Nay, 'tis not born yet, sir, 'tis forth
coming, you see; the childe must have a father:
what do you think of my sister? 61

Edwin. Why, I think if she ne're had hus-
band, she's a whore, and thou a fool. Fare-
well. [*Exit.*

Clown. I thank you, sir. Well, pull up thy
heart, sister; if there be any Law i'th' Court,
this fellow shall father it, 'cause he uses me
so scurvily. There's a great Wedding towards,
they say; we'l amongst them for a husband
for thee. 70

Enter Sir Nicodemus with a Letter.

If we miss there, Ile have another bout with
him that abus'd me. See! look, there comes
another Hat and Feather, this should be a close
Letcher, he's reading of a Love-letter.

Sir Nic. Earl *Cador's* Marriage, and a
Masque to grace it. 75

So, so.
This night shall make me famous for Present-
ments.—

How now, what are you?

Clown. A couple of *Great Brittain's* you
may see by our bellies, sir. 80

Sir Nic. And what of this, sir?

Clown. Why, thus the matter stands, sir:
There's one of your Courtiers Hunting Nags
has made a Gap through another mans
Inclosure. Now, sir, here's the question, who
should be at charge of a Fur-bush to stop it?

Sir Nic. Ha, ha, this is out of my element:
the Law must end it. 88

Clown. Your Worship says well; for, surely,
I think some Lawyer had a hand in the busi-
ness, we have such a troublesom Issue.

Sir Nic. But what's thy business with me
now?

Clown. Nay, sir, the business is done
already, you may see by my sisters belly. 95

Sir Nic. Oh, now I finde thee: this Gentle-
woman, it seems, has been humbled.

Clown. As low as the ground would give
her leave, sir, and your Worship knows this:

20 A pox T, etc. 22 look for him T 29 both Q:
but D 33 got a Q: got with T

though there be many fathers without children, yet to have a childe without a father were most unnatural. 102

Sir Nic. That's true, ifaith, I never heard of a childe yet that e're begot his father.

Clown. Why, true, you say wisely, sir.

Sir Nic. And therefore I conclude, that he that got the childe is without all question the father of it.

Clown. I, now you come to the matter, sir; and our suit is to your Worship for the discovery of this father. 111

Sir Nic. Why, lives he in the Court here?

Joan. Yes, sir, and I desire but Marriage.

Sir Nic. And does the knave refuse it? Come, come, be merry, wench; he shall marry thee, and keep the childe too, if my Knight-hood can do any thing. I am bound by mine Orders to help distressed Ladies, and can there be a greater injury to a woman with childe, then to lack a father for't? I am asham'd of your simpleness: Come, come, give me a Courtiers Fee for my pains, and Ile be thy Advocate my self, and justice shall be found; nay, Ile sue the Law for it; but give me my Fee first. 125

Clown. If all the money I have i'th world will do it, you shall have it, sir.

Sir Nic. An Angel does it.

Clown. Nay, there's two, for your better eye sight, sir. 130

Sir Nic. Why, well said! Give me thy hand, wench, Ile teach thee a trick for all this, shall get a father for thy childe presently, and this it is, mark now: You meet a man, as you meet me now, thou claimest Marriage of me, and layest the childe to my charge; I deny it: push, that's nothing, hold thy Claim fast, thy words carries it, and no Law can withstand it. 138

Clown. Ist possible?

Sir Nic. Past all opposition; her own word carries it: let her challenge any man, the childe shall call him Father; there's a trick for your money now. 143

Clown. Troth, Sir, we thank you, we'll make use of your trick, and go no further to seek the childe a Father, for we challenge you, Sir: sister, lay it to him, he shall marry thee, I shall have a worshipful old man to my brother. 148

Sir Nic. Ha, ha, I like thy pleasantness.

Joan. Nay, indeed, Sir, I do challenge you.

Clown. You think we jest, sir?

Sir Nic. I, by my troth, do I. I like thy wit, yfaith: thou shalt live at Court with me;

didst never here of *Nicodemus Nothing?* I am the man. 155

Clown. Nothing? 'slid, we are out agen: thou wast never got with childe with nothing, sure.

Joan. I know not what to say. 159

Sir Nic. Never grieve, wench, show me the man, and process shall fly out.

Clown. 'Tis enough for us to finde the children, we look that you should finde the Father, and therefore either do us justice, or we'll stand to our first challenge. 165

Sir Nic. Would you have justice without an Adversary? unless you can show me the man, I can do you no good in it.

Clown. Why, then I hope you'll do us no harm, sir; you'll restore my money. 170

Sir Nic. What, my Fee? marry, Law forbid it!

Finde out the party, and you shall have justice, Your fault clos'd up, and all shall be amended, The Childe, his Father, and the Law (def-) ended. [Exit.]

Clown. Well, he has deserv'd his Fee, indeed, for he has brought our suit to a quick end, I promise you, and yet the Childe has never a Father; nor we have no more money to seek after him. A shame of all lecherous placcats! now you look like a Cat had newly kitten'd; what will you do now, tro? Follow me no further, lest I beat your brains out. 182

Joan. Impose upon me any punishment, Rather then leave me now.

Clown. Well, I think I am bewitcht with thee; I cannot finde in my heart to forsake her. There was never sister would have abus'd a poor brother as thou hast done; I am even pin'd away with fretting, there's nothing but flesh and bones about me. Well, and I had my money agen, it were some comfort. Hark, sister, [Thunder] does it not thunder? 192

Joan. Oh yes, most fearfully: What shall we do, brother?

Clown. Marry, e'ene get some shelter, e're the storm catch us: away, let's away, I prithee.

Enter the Devil in mans habit, richly attir'd, his feet and his head horrid.

Joan. Ha, 'tis he! Stay, brother, dear brother, stay. 196

Clown. What's the matter now?

Joan. My love, my friend is come; yonder he goes.

168 do you Q: do T 172-3 Finde . . clos'd up
om. D 174 child find his D Law] Law-suit WP
defended pr. ed.: ended Q, etc. 178 we have no Q:
have we T: we have on D 185 bewitch Q

121 your om. D 130 eye om. T. 136 push] pish
T, etc. 137 word D 146 the childe om. T

Clown. Where, where? show me where;
I'll stop him, if the devil be not in him. 200

Joan. Look there, look yonder!
Oh, dear friend, pity my distress,
For heaven and goodness, do but speak to me.

Devil. She calls me, and yet drives me
headlong from her. 204

Poor mortal, thou and I are much uneven,
Thou must not speak of goodness nor of
heaven,

If I confer with thee; but be of comfort:
Whilst men do breath, and *Brittains* name
be known,

The fatal fruit thou bear'st within thy womb
Shall here be famous till the day of doom. 210

Clown. 'Slid, who's that talks so? I can
see no body.

Joan. Then art thou blind or mad. See
where he goes,

And beckons me to come; oh, lead me forth,
I'll follow thee in spite of fear or death. [*Exit.*]

Clown. Oh brave! she'll run to the devil for
a husband; she's stark mad, sure, and talks to
a shadow, for I could see no substance: well,
I'll after her; the child was got by chance,
and the father must be found at all adventure.
[*Exit.*]

(SCENE II.

The Porch of a Church.)

Enter Hermit, Modesta, and Edwin.

Modesta. Oh, reverent sir, by you my heart
hath reacht

At the large hopes of holy Piety,
And for this I craved your company,
Here in your sight religiously to vow
My chaste thoughts up to heaven, and make
you now 5

The witness of my faith.

Her. Angels assist thy hopes.

Edwin. What means my Love? thou art
my promis'd wife.

Modest. To part with willingly what friends
and life

Can make no good assurance of. 10

Edwin. Oh, finde remorse, fair soul, to
love and merit,

And yet recant thy vow.

Modest. Never:

This world and I are parted now for ever.

Her. To finde the way to bliss, oh, happy
woman, 15

Th'ast learn'd the hardest Lesson well, I see.
Now show thy fortitude and constancy:
Let these thy friends thy sad departure weep,

209 fruit] print D Scene II. etc. add. T 3 I]
have I D

Thou shalt but loose the wealth thou could'st
not keep.

My contemplation calls me, I must leave ye.

Edwin. O, reverent Sir, perswade not her
to leave me. 21

Her. My Lord, I do not, nor to cease to
love ye;

I onely pray her faith may fixed stand;
Marriage was blest, I know, with heavens own
hand. [*Exit.*]

Edwin. You hear him, Lady, 'tis not a
virgins state, 25

But sanctity of life, must make you happy.

Modest. Good sir, you say you love me;
gentle *Edwin*,

Even by that love I do beseech you, leave me.

Edwin. Think of your fathers tears, your
weeping friends,

Whom cruel grief makes pale and bloodless
for you. 30

Modest. Would I were dead to all.

Edwin. Why do you weep?

Modest. Oh, who would live to see

How men with care and cost seek misery?

Edwin. Why do you seek it then? What
joy, what pleasure

Can give you comfort in a single life? 35

Modest. The contemplation of a happy
death,

Which is to me so pleasing that I think
No torture could divert me: What's this world,
Wherein you'd have me walk, but a sad
passage

To a dread Judgement-Seat, from whence
even now 40

We are but bail'd, upon our good abearing,
Till that great Sessions come, when Death, the
Cryer,

Will surely summon us and all to appear,
To plead us guilty or our bail to clear? 44

What musick's this? [*Soft Musick.*]

*Enter two Bishops, Donobert, Gloster, Cador,
Constancia, Oswald, Tocio.*

Edwin. Oh, now resolve, and think upon
my love!

This sounds the Marriage of your beauteous
sister,

Vertuous *Constancia*, with the noble *Cador*.
Look, and behold this pleasure.

Modest. Cover me with night, 50

It is a vanity not worth the sight.

Dono. See, see, she's yonder.

Pass on, son *Cador*, Daughter *Constancia*,
I beseech you all, unless she first move speech,
Salute her not.—*Edwin*, what good success?

S. D. Bishops, Edwin, Donobert Q

Edwin. Nothing as yet, unless this object
take her. 56
Dono. See, see, her eye is fixt upon her
sister;
Seem careless all, and take no notice of her: —
On afore there; come, my *Constancia*.
Modest. Not speak to me, nor dain to cast
an eye, 60
To look on my despised poverty?
I must be more charitable;—pray, stay,
Lady,
Are not you she whom I did once call sister?
Constan. I did acknowledge such a name
to one,
Whilst she was worthy of it, in whose folly, 65
Since you neglect your fame and friends
together,
In you I drown'd a sisters name for ever.
Modest. Your looks did speak no less.
Glost. It now begins to work, this sight has
moved her.
Dono. I knew this trick would take, or
nothing. 70
Modest. Though you disdain in me a sisters
name,
Yet charity, me thinks, should be so strong
To instruct e're you reject. I am a wretch,
Even follies instance, who perhaps have er'd,
Not having known the goodness bears so high
And fair a show in you; which being exprest,
I may recant this low despised life, 77
And please those friends whom I mov'd to
grief.
Cador. She is coming, yfaith; be merry,
Edwin.
Consta. Since you desire instruction, you
shall have it. 80
What ist should make you thus desire to live
Vow'd to a single life?
Modest. Because I know I cannot flie from
death.
Oh, my good sister, I beseech you, hear me:
This world is but a Masque, catching weak
eyes 85
With what is not our selves but our disguise,
A Vizard that falls off, the Dance being done,
And leaves Deaths Glass for all to look upon;
Our best happiness here lasts but a night,
Whose burning Tapers makes false Ware seem
right. 90
Who knows not this, and will not now provide
Some better shift before his shame be spy'd,
And knowing this vain world at last will leave
him,
Shake off these robes that help but to deceive
him?

70 knew *T*: know *Q* 78 mov'd *Q*: have mov'd *D*

Const. Her words are powerful, I am
amaz'd to hear her! 95
Dono. Her soul's enchanted with infected
Spells.
Leave her, best Girl; for now in thee
He seek the fruits of Age, Posterity.—
Out o' my sight! sure, I was half asleep
Or drunk, when I begot thee. 100
Const. Good sir, forbear. What say you to
that, sister?
The joy of children, a blest Mothers Name!
Oh, who without much grief can loose such
Fame?
Modest. Who can enjoy it without sorrow
rather?
And that most certain where the joy's unsure,
Seeing the fruit that we beget endure 106
So many miseries, that oft we pray
The Heavens to shut up their afflicted day;
At best we do but bring forth Heirs to die,
And fill the Coffins of our enemy. 110
Const. Oh, my soul!
Dono. Hear her no more, *Constancia*,
She's sure bewitcht with Error; leave her,
Girl.
Const. Then must I leave all goodness, sir:
away,
Stand off, I say.
Dono. How's this? 115
Const. I have no father, friend, no husband
now;
All are but borrowed robes, in which we
masque
To waste and spend the time, when all our Life
Is but one good betwixt two Ague-days,
Which from the first e're we have time to
praise, 120
A second Fever takes us: Oh, my best sister,
My souls eternal friend, forgive the rashness
Of my distemper'd tongue; for how could she,
Knew not her self, know thy felicity,
From which worlds cannot now remove me?
Dono. Art thou mad too, fond woman?
what's thy meaning? 126
Const. To seek eternal happiness in heaven,
Which all this world affords not.
Cador. Think of thy Vow, thou art my
promis'd Wife.
Const. Pray, trouble me no further.
Omnes. Strange alteration! 130
Cador. Why do you stand at gaze, you
sacred Priests?
You holy men, be equal to the Gods,
And consummate my Marriage with this
woman.
Bishop. Her self gives barr, my Lord, to
your desires

And our performance; 'tis against the Law 135
And Orders of the Church to force a Marriage.

Cador. How am I wrong'd! Was this your
trick, my Lord?

Dono. I am abus'd past sufferance;
Grief and amazement strive which Sense of
mine

Shall loose her being first. Yet let me call thee
Daughter. 140

Cador. Me, Wife.

Const. Your words are air, you speak of
want to wealth,

And wish her sickness, newly rais'd to health.
Dono. Bewitched Girls, tempt not an old
mans fury, 144

That hath no strength to uphold his feeble age,
But what your sights give life to: oh, beware,
And do not make me curse you.

[*Kneel.*] *Modest.* Dear father,
Here at your feet we kneel, grant us but this,
That, in your sight and hearing, the good
Hermit 150

May plead our Cause; which, if it shall not
give

Such satisfaction as your Age desires,
We will submit to you.

Const. You gave us life;
Save not our bodies, but our souls, from death.

Dono. This gives some comfort yet: Rise
with my blessings. — 155

Have patience, noble *Cador*, worthy *Edwin*;
Send for the Hermit that we may confer.

For, sure, Religion ties you not to leave
Your careful Father thus; if so it be,
Take you content, and give all grief to me.

[*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE III.

A cave in the Forest.)

Thunder and Lightning; Enter Devil.

Devil. Mix light and darkness; earth and
heaven dissolve,

Be of one piece agen, and turn to *Chaos*;
Break all your works, you powers, and spoil
the world,

Or, if you will maintain earth still, give way
And life to this abortive birth now coming, 5
Whose fame shall add unto your Oracles.

Lucina, Hecate, dreadful Queen of Night,
Bright *Proserpine*, be pleas'd for *Ceres* love,
From *Stigian* darkness summon up the Fates,
And in a moment bring them quickly hither,
Lest death do vent her birth and her together.

[*Thunder.*

Assist, you spirits of infernal deeps, 12

148 S. D. Kneel printed as part of text Q 160 you
Q: your WP Scene III. etc. add. T

Squint ey'd *Ericho*, midnight *Incubus*,
Rise, rise to aid this birth prodigious.

Enter Lucina and the three Fates.

Thanks, *Hecate*; hail, sister to the Gods! 15
There lies your way, haste with the Fates, and
help,

Give quick dispatch unto her laboring throws,
To bring this mixture of infernal seed
To humane being; [*Exit Fates.*

And to beguil her pains, till back you come, 20
Anticks shall dance and Musick fill the room. —

[*Dance.*

Devil. Thanks, Queen of Shades.

Lucina. Farewel, great servant to th'in-
fernal King.

In honor of this childe, the Fates shall bring
All their assisting powers of Knowledge, Arts,
Learning, Wisdom, all the hidden parts 26
Of all-admiring Prophecy, to fore-see
The event of times to come: his Art shall
stand

A wall of brass to guard the *Brittain* Land.
Even from this minute, all his Arts appears 30
Manlike in Judgement, Person, State, and
years.

Upon his brest the Fates have fixt his name,
And since his birth place was this forrest here,
They now have nam'd him *Merlin Silvester.*

Devil. And *Merlins* name in *Brittany* shall
live, 35

Whilst men inhabit here or Fates can give
Power to amazing wonder; envy shall weep,
And mischief sit and shake her ebbone wings,
Whilst all the world of *Merlins* magick sings.
[*Exit.*

(SCENE IV.

The Forest.)

Enter Clown.

Clown. Well, I wonder how my poor sister
does, after all this thundering; I think she's
dead, for I can hear no tidings of her. Those
woods yields small comfort for her; I could
meet nothing but a swinherds wife, keeping
hogs by the Forestside, but neither she nor
none of her sows would stir a foot to help us;
indeed, I think she durst not trust her self
amongst the trees with me, for I must needs
confess I offer'd some kindness to her. Well,
I would fain know what's become of my sister:
if she have brought me a yong Cousin, his
face may be a picture to finde his Father by.
So oh! sister *Joan*, *Joan Go-too't*, where art
thou? 15

14 S. D. after 13 Q 26 Learning, and wisdom D
35 Britany D: Brittain Q Scene IV. etc. add. T

(Within) *Joan.* Here, here, brother, stay but a while, I come to thee.

Clown. O brave! she's alive still, I know her voice; she speaks, and speaks cheerfully, methinks. How now, what Moon-calf has she got with her? 21

Enter Joan and Merlin with a Book.

Joan. Come, my dear *Merlin*, why dost thou fix thine eye So deeply on that book?

Merlin. To sound the depth Of Arts, of Learning, Wisdom, Knowledge.

Joan. Oh, my dear, dear son, 25 Those studies fits thee when thou art a man.

Merlin. Why, mother, I can be but half a man at best,

And that is your mortality; the rest In me is spirit; 'tis not meat, nor time, That gives this growth and bigness; no, my years 30

Shall be more strange then yet my birth appears.

Look, mother, there's my Uncle.

Joan. How doest thou know him, son? thou never saw'st him. 34

Merlin. Yet I know him, and know the pains he has taken for ye, to finde out my Father.—Give me your hand, good Uncle.

Clown. Ha, ha, I'de laugh at that, yfaith. Do you know me, sir? 39

Merlin. Yes, by the same token that even now you kist the swinherds-wife i'th' woods, and would have done more, if she would have let you, Uncle. 43

Clown. A witch, a witch, a witch, sister: rid him out of your company, he is either a witch or a conjurer; he could never have known this else. 47

Joan. Pray, love him, brother, he is my son.

Clown. Ha, ha, this is worse then all the rest, yfaith; by his beard he is more like your husband. Let me see, is your great belly gone?

Joan. Yes, and this the happy fruit. 52

Clown. What, this Hartichoke? A Childe born with a beard on his face?

Merlin. Yes, and strong legs to go, and teeth to eat. 56

Clown. You can nurse up your self, then? There's some charges sav'd for Soap and Caudle. 'Slid, I have heard of some that has been born with teeth, but never none with such a talking tongue before. 61

Joan. Come, come, you must use him kindly, brother;

Did you but know his worth, you would make much of him.

Clown. Make much of a Moncky? This is worse then *Tom Thumb*, that let a fart in his Mothers belly; a Childe to speak, eat, and go the first hour of his birth; nay, such a Baby as had need of a Barber before he was born too; why, sister, this is monstrous, and shames all our kindred. 70

Joan. That thus 'gainst nature and our common births

He comes thus furnish to salute the world, Is power of Fates, and gift of his great father.

Clown. Why, of what profession is your father, sir? 75

Merlin. He keeps a Hot-house i'th' Low Countries; will you see him, sir?

Clown. See him? why, sister, has the childe found his father? 79

Mer. Yes, and Ile fetch him, Uncle. [Exit.]

Clown. Do not Uncle me, till I know your kindred: for my conscience, some Baboon begot thee.—Surely, thou art horribly deceived, sister, this Urchin cannot be of thy breeding; I shall be asham'd to call him cousin, though his father be a Gentleman. 86

Enter Merlin and Devil.

Merlin. Now, my kinde Uncle, see: The Childe has found his Father, this is he.

Clown. The devil it is; ha, ha, is this your sweet-heart, sister? have we run through the Countrey, haunted the City, and examin'd the Court to finde out a Gallant with a Hat and Feather, and a silken Sword, and golden Hangers, and do you now bring me to a Ragamuffin with a face like a Frying-pan? 95

Joan. Fie, brother, you mistake, behold him better.

Clown. How's this? do you juggle with me, or are mine eyes matches? Hat and Feather, Sword, and Hangers, and all! this is a Gallant indeed, sister; this has all the marks of him we look for. 102

Devil. And you have found him now, sir: Give me your hand, I now must call you brother.

Clown. Not till you have married my sister, for all this while she's but your whore, sir.

Devil. Thou art too plain, Ile satisfie that wrong 107

To her, and thee, and all, with liberal hand: Come, why art thou fearful?

Clown. Nay, I am not afraid, and you were the devil, sir. 111

Devil. Thou needst not; keep with thy sister still,
And Ile supply your wants, you shall lack nothing

That gold and wealth can purchase. 114

Clown. Thank you, brother: we have gone many a weary step to finde you; you may be a husband for a Lady, for you are far fetcht and dear bought, I assure you. Pray, how should I call your son, my cousin here?

Devil. His name is *Merlin*. 120

Clown. *Merlin?* Your hand, cousin *Merlin*; for your fathers sake I accept you to my kindred: if you grow in all things as your Beard does, you will be talkt on. By your Mothers side, cousin, you come of the *Go-too'ts*, *Suffolk* bred, but our standing house is at *Hocklye i'th' Hole*, and *Layton-buzzard*. For your father, no doubt you may from him claim Titles of Worship, but I cannot describe it; I think his Ancestors came first from *Hell-bree in Wales*, cousin. 131

Devil. No matter whence we do derive our Name:

All *Brittany* shall ring of *Merlin's* fame,
And wonder at his acts. Go hence to *Wales*,
There live a while; there *Vortiger* the King
Builds Castles and strong Holds, which cannot stand, 136

Unless supported by yong *Merlins* hand.
There shall thy fame begin: Wars are a breeding;

The Saxons practise Treason, yet unseen,
Which shortly shall break out.—Fair Love,
farewel; 140

Dear son and brother, here must I leave you all,

Yet still I will be near at *Merlins* call. [*Exit.*]

Merl. Will you go, Uncle?

Clown. Yes, Ile follow you, cousin.—Well, I do most horribly begin to suspect my kindred; this brother in law of mine is the *Devil*, sure, and though he hide his horns with his Hat and Feather, I spi'd his cloven foot for all his cunning. [*Exit.*]

(SCENE V.

The British Court.)

Enter Ostorius, Octa, and Proximus.

Ostor. Come, come, time calls our close
Complots to action.

Go, *Proximus* with winged speed flie hence,
Hye thee to *Wales*: salute great *Vortiger*
With these our Letters; bid the King to arms,
Tell him we have new friends, more Forces
landed 5

Scene V. etc. add. T

In *Norfolk* and *Northumberland*; bid him
Make haste to meet us; if he keep his word,
Wee'l part the Realm between us.

Octa. Bend all thine Art to quit that late
disgrace

The Christian Hermit gave thee; make thy
revenge 10

Both sure and home.

Prox. That thought, sir, spurs me on,
Till I have wrought their swift destruction. [*Exit.*]

Ostor. Go, then, and prosper. *Octa*, be
vigilant:

Speak, are the Forts possest? the Guards made
sure?

Revolve, I pray, on how large consequence 15
The bare event and sequel of our hopes
Joyntly consists, that have embark't our lives
Upon the hazzard of the least miscarriage.

Octa. All's sure: the Queen your sister hath
contrived

The cunning Plot so sure, as at an instant 20
The Brothers shall be both surpriz'd and taken.

Ostor. And both shall die; yet one a while
must live,

Till we by him have gather'd strength and
power

To meet bold *Edol*, their stern General,
That now, contrary to the Kings command, 25
Hath re-united all his cashier'd Troops,
And this way beats his drums to threaten us.

Octa. Then our Plot's discover'd.

Ostor. Come, th'art a fool, his Army and
his life

Is given unto us: where is the Queen my sister?

Octa. In conference with the Prince. 31

Ostor. Bring the Guards nearer, all is fair
and good;

Their Conference, I hope, shall end in blood.
[*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE VI.

A Room in the Palace.)

Enter Prince and Artesia.

Artes. Come, come, you do but flatter;
What you term Love is but a Dream of blood,
Wakes with enjoying, and with open eyes
Forgot, contemn'd, and lost.

Prince. I must be wary, her words are
dangerous.— 5

True, we'l speak of Love no more, then.

Artes. Nay, if you will, you may;
'Tis but in jest, and yet so children play
With fiery flames, and covet what is bright,
But, feeling his effects, abhor the light. 10

*Scene VI. D: Scene V continued T A Room, etc.
add. WP*

Pleasure is like a Building, the more high,
The narrower still it grows; Cedars do dye
Soonest at top.

Prince. How does your instance suit?

Artes. From Art and Nature to make sure
the root, 15

And lay a fast foundation, e're I try
The incertain Changes of a wavering Skie.
Make your example thus.—You have a kiss,—
Was it not pleasing?

Prince. Above all name to express it.

Artes. Yet now the pleasure's gone, 20
And you have lost your joys possession.

Prince. Yet when you please, this flood
may ebb again.

Artes. But where it never ebbs, there runs
the main.

Prince. Who can attain such hopes?

Artes. Ile show the way to it, give you 25
A taste once more of what you may enjoy.

[*Kiss.*

Prince. Impudent whore!—

I were more false than Atheism can be,
Should I not call this high felicity.

Artes. If I should trust your faith, alas,
I fear, 30

You soon would change belief.

Prince. I would covet Martyrdom to make't
confirm'd.

Artes. Give me your hand on that you'l
keep your word?

Prince. I will.

Artes. Enough: Help, husband, king
Aurelius, help! 35

Rescue betraid *Artesia*!

Prince. Nay, then 'tis I that am betraid,
I see;

Yet with thy blood Ile end thy Treachery.

Artes. How now! what troubles you? Is
this you, sir,

That but even now would suffer Martyrdom 40
To win your hopes, and is there now such
terror

In names of men to fright you? nay, then I see
What mettle you are made on.

Prince. Hal was it but tryal? then I ask
your pardon:

What a dull slave was I to be so fearful!— 45
Ile trust her now no more, yet try the utmost.—
I am resolved, no brother, no man breath-
ing,

Were he my bloods begetter, should withhold
Me from your love; I'd leap into his bosom,
And from his brest pull forth that happiness 50
Heaven had reserved in you for my enjoying.

14 instance *T*, etc.: instanced *Q* 25 you *WP*:
me *Q*

Artes. I, now you speak a Lover like a
Prince!—

Treason, treason!

Prince. Agen?

Artes. Help, Saxon Princes: Treason! 55

Enter Ostorius, Octa &c.

Ostor. Rescue the Queen: strike down the
Villain.

*Enter Edoll, Aurelius, Donobert, Cador, Edwin,
Toclio, Oswold, at the other Door.*

Edol. Call in the Guards: the Prince in
danger!

Fall back, dear Sir, my brest shall buckler you.

Aurel. Beat down their weapons!

Edol. Slave, wert thou made of brass, my
sword shall bite thee. 60

Aurel. Withdraw, on pain of death: where
is the Traitor?

Artes. Oh, save your life, my Lord; let it
suffice,

My beauty forc't mine own captivity.

Aurel. Who did attempt to wrong thee?

Prince. Hear me, Sir.
Aurel. Oh, my sad soul! was't thou? 65

Artes. Oh, do not stand to speak; one
minutes stay

Prevents a second speech for ever.

Aurel. Make our Guards strong:

My dear *Artesia*, let us know thy wrongs

And our own dangers. 70

Artes. The Prince your brother, with these
Brittain Lords,

Have all agreed to take me hence by force
And marry me to him.

Prince. The Devil shall wed thee first:

Thy baseness and thy lust confound and rot
thee! 75

Artes. He courted me even now, and in
mine ear

Sham'd not to plead his most dishonest love,
And their attempts to seize your sacred person,

Either to shut you up within some prison,
Or, which is worse, I fear, to murder you. 80

Omnes Brittain. 'Tis all as false as hell.

Edol. And as foul as she is.

Artes. You know me, Sir?

Edol. Yes, Deadly Sin, we know you,
And shall discover all your villany.

Aurel. *Chester*, forbear! 85

Ostor. Their treasons, sir, are plain:

Why are their Souldiers lodg'd so near the
Court?

Octa. Nay, why came he in arms so sud-
denly?

66 stand *Q*: stay *T* 81 all as *om. T*

Edol. You fleering Anticks, do not wake my fury.
Octa. Fury! 90
Edol. Ratsbane, do not urge me.
Artes. Good sir, keep farther from them.
Prince Oh, my sick heart!
 She is a witch by nature, devil by art.
Aurel. Bite thine own slanderous tongue; 'tis thou art false. 95
 I have observ'd your passions long ere this.
Ostor. Stand on your guard, my Lord, we are your friends,
 And all our Force is yours.
Edol. To spoil and rob the Kingdom.
Aurel. Sir, be silent.
Edol. Silent! how long? till Doomsday? shall I stand by, 100
 And hear mine Honor blasted with foul Treason,
 The State half lost, and your life endanger'd, Yet be silent?
Artes. Yes, my blunt Lord, unless you speak your Treasons.
 Sir, let your Guards, as Traitors, seize them all, And then let tortures and devulsive racks 106
 Force a Confession from them.
Edol. Wilde-fire and Brimstone eat thee! Hear me, sir.
Aurel. Sir, Ile not hear you.
Edol. But you shall. Not hear me! Were the worlds Monarch, *Cesar*, living, he Should hear me. 111
 I tell you, Sir, these serpents have betray'd Your Life and Kingdom: does not every day Bring tidings of more swarms of lowsie slaves,
 The offal fugitives of barren *Germany*, 115
 That land upon our Coasts, and by our neglect Settle in *Norfolk* and *Northumberland*?
Ostor. They come as Aids and Safeguards to the King.
Octa. Has he not need, when *Vortiger*'s in arms,
 And you raise Powers, 'tis thought, to joyn with him? 120
Edol. Peace, you pernicious Rat.
Dono. Prithee, forbear.
Edol. Away! suffer a gilded rascal,
 A low-bred despicable creeper, an insulting Toad,
 To spit his poison'd venome in my face!
Octa. Sir, sir! 125
Edol. Do not reply, you Cur; for, by the Gods,

Tho' the Kings presence guard thee, I shall break all patience,
 And, like a Lion rous'd to spoil, shall run Foul-mouth'd upon thee, and devour thee quick.— 129
 Speak, sir: will you forsake these scorpions, Or stay till they have stung you to the heart?
Aurel. Y'are traitors all. This is our wife, our Queen:
 Brother *Ostorius*, troop your Saxons up, We'll hence to *Winchester*, (and) raise more powers, 134
 To man with strength the Castle *Camilot*.— Go hence, false men, joyn you with *Vortiger*, The murderer of our brother *Constantine*: We'll hunt both him and you with dreadful vengeance.
 Since *Brittain* fails, we'll trust to forrain friends,
 And guard our person from your traitorous ends. 140
 [Exeunt *Aurel.*, *Ostor.*, *Octa.*, *Artes.*, *Toc.*, *Osw.*]

Edwin. He's sure bewicht.
Glost. What counsel now for safety?
Dono. Onely this, sir: with all the speed we can,
 Preserve the person of the King and Kingdom.
Cador. Which to effect, 'tis best march hence to *Wales*,
 And set on *Vortiger* before he joyn 145
 His Forces with the Saxons.
Edwin. On, then, with speed for *Wales* and *Vortiger*!
 That tempest once o'reblown, we come, *Ostorius*, 148
 To meet thy traitorous Saxons, thee and them, That with advantage thus have won the King, To back your factions and to work our ruines. This, by the Gods and my good Sword, I'll set
 In bloody lines upon thy Burgonet. [Exeunt.]

ACT 4.

SCENE I.

(Before a Ruined Castle in Wales.)

Enter Clown, Merlin, and a little antick Spirit.

Mer. How now, Uncle? why do you search your pockets so? Do you miss any thing?

Clown. Ha! Cousin *Merlin*, I hope your beard does not overgrow your honesty; I pray, remember, you are made up of sisters thread; I am your mothers brother, whosoever was your father. 7

102-3 One line D 102 and om. WP 103 Yet]
 And yet WP 114 slaves] knaves T 116 and]
 and have T 117 Settle pr. ed.: Settled Q, etc.

134 and add. Molt., WP 141 bewitch Q S. D.
 Before etc. add. T 5 of] of my D

Merlin. Why, wherein can you task my duty, Uncle?

Clown. Your self or your page it must be, I have kept no other company, since your mother bound your head to my Protectorship; I do feel a fault of one side; either it was that Sparrowhawk, or a Cast of *Merlins*, for I finde a Covy of Cardecu's sprung out of my pocket.

Merlin. Why, do you want any money, Uncle? Sirrah, had you any from him? 17

Clown. Deny it not, for my pockets are witness against you.

Spirit. Yes, I had, to teach you better wit to look to it. 21

Clown. Pray, use your fingers better, and my wit may serve as it is, sir.

Merlin. Well, restore it.

Spirit. There it is. 25

Clown. I, there's some honesty in this; 'twas a token from your invisible Father, Cousin, which I would not have to go invisibly from me agen.

Mer. Well, you are sure you have it now, Uncle? 31

Clown. Yes, and mean to keep it now from your pages filching fingers too.

Spirit. If you have it so sure, pray show it me agen. 35

Clown. Yes, my little juggler, I dareshow it. Ha, cleanly conveyance agen! ye have no invisible fingers, have ye? 'Tis gone, certainly.

Spirit. Why, sir, I toucht you not. 40

Mer. Why, look you, Uncle, I have it now: how ill do you look to it! here, keep it safer.

Clown. Ha, ha, this is fine, yfaith. I must keep some other company, if you have these slights of hand. 45

Merlin. Come, come, Uncle, 'tis all my Art, which shall not offend you, sir, onely I give you a taste of it to show you sport.

Clown. Oh, but 'tis ill jesting with a mans pocket, tho'. But I am glad to see you cunning, Cousin, for now will I warrant thee a living till thou diest. You have heard the news in *Wales* here? 53

Mer. Uncle, let me prevent your care and counsel, 'Twill give you better knowledge of my cunning.

You would prefer me now, in hope of gain, To *Vortiger*, King of the *Welch Brittaines*, To whom are all the Artists summon'd now, That seeks the secrets of futurity: 59

The Bards, the Druids, Wizards, Conjurers, 15 Covy] Some copies of *Q* appear to read Cony 50 you *Q*: your *D*, etc.

Not an Auraspex with his whisling spells, No Capnomanser with his musty fumes, No Witch or Juggler, but is thither sent, To calculate the strange and fear'd event Of his prodigious Castle, now in building, 65 Where all the labors of the painful day Are ruin'd still i'th' night, and to this place You would have me go. 68

Clown. Well, if thy mother were not my sister, I would say she was a witch that begot thee; but this is thy father, not thy mother wit. Thou hast taken my tale into thy mouth, and spake my thoughts before me; therefore away, shuffle thy self amongst the Conjurers, and be a made man before thou comest to age. 75

Mer. Nay, but stay, Uncle, you overslip my dangers:

The Prophecies and all the cunning Wizards Have certifi'd the King that this his Castle Can never stand, till the foundation's laid With Mortar temper'd with the fatal blood 80 Of such a childe whose father was no mortal.

Clown. What's this to thee? If the devil were thy father, was not thy mother born at *Carmarden*? Diggon for that, then; and then it must be a chilles blood, and who will take thee for a childe with such a beard of thy face? Is there not diggon for that too, Cousin? 87

Merlin. I must not go: lend me your ear a while,

I'll give you reasons to the contrary.

Enter two Gentlemen.

1. *Gentle.* Sure, this is an endless piece of work the King has sent us about! 91

2. *Gentle.* Kings may do it, man; the like has been done to finde out the Unicorn.

1. *Gentle.* Which will be sooner found, I think, then this fiend begotten childe we seek for. 96

2. *Gentle.* Pox of those Conjurers that would speak of such a one, and yet all their cunning could not tell us where to finde him.

1. *Gentle.* In *Wales* they say assuredly he lives; come, let's enquire further. 101

Mer. Uncle, your perswasions must not prevail with me: I know mine enemies better then you do.

Clown. I say, th'art a bastard then, if thou disobey thine Uncle: was not *Joan Go-too't*, thy mother, my sister? If the devil were thy father, what kin art thou to any man alive

61 Aurasper *Q*: Aruspex *T*, etc. 62 Capnomanser *Q*: Capnomancer *T*, etc. 65 his] this *T* 71 thee *T*, etc.: this *Q* 73 spoke my words *D* 100 say] said *T*

but Bailys and Brokers? and they are but brothers in Law to thee neither. 110

1. *Gentle.* How's this? I think we shall speed here.

2. *Gentle.* I, and unlook't for too: go ne're and listen to them. 114

Clown. Hast thou a beard to hide it? wilt thou show thy self a childe? wilt thou have more hair then wit? Wilt thou deny thy mother, because no body knows thy father? Or shall thine Uncle be an ass? 119

1. *Gentle.* Bless ye, friend: pray, what call you this small Gentlemans name?

Clown. Small, sir? a small man may be a great Gentleman; his father may be of an ancient house, for ought we know, sir. 124

2. *Gentle.* Why? do you not know his father?
Clown. No, nor you neither, I think, unless the devil be in ye.

1. *Gentle.* What is his name, sir?

Clown. His name is my Cousin, sir, his education is his sisters son, but his maners are his own. 131

Merlin. Why ask ye, Gentlemen? my name is *Merlin*.

Clown. Yes, and a Goshawk was his father, for ought we know; for I am sure his mother was a Wind-sucker. 136

2. *Gentle.* He has a mother, then?

Clown. As sure as I have a sister, sir.

1. *Gentle.* But his father you leave doubtful.

Clown. Well, Sir, as wise men as you doubt whether he had a father or no? 141

1. *Gentle.* Sure, this is he we seek for.

2. *Gent.* I think no less: and, sir, we let you know
The King hath sent for you.

Clown. The more childe he; and he had bin rul'd by me, 145
He should have gone before he was sent for.

1. *Gent.* May we not see his mother?

Clown. Yes, and feel her too, if you anger her; a devilish thing, I can tell ye, she has been. Ile go fetch her to ye. [Exit.]

2. *Gent.* Sir, it were fit you did resolve for speed, 151

You must unto the King.

Mer. My Service, sir,
Shall need no strict command, it shall obey
Most peaceably; but needless 'tis to fetch
What is brought home: my journey may be staid, 155

The King is coming hither

With the same quest you bore before him;
hark,

115-16 Wilt then show D

This drum will tell ye.

[Within Drums beat a low March.]

1. *Gent.* This is some cunning indeed, sir.

Florish. Enter *Vortiger*, reading a letter,
Proximus, with Drum and Soldiers, &c.

Vorti. Still in our eye your message,
Proximus, 160

We keep to spur our speed:

Ostorius and *Octa* we shall salute

With succor against Prince *Vter* and *Aurelius*,
Whom now we hear incamps at *Winchester*.
There's nothing interrupts our way so much
As doth the erection of this fatal Castle, 166
That spite of all our Art and daily labor,
The night still ruins.

Prox. As erst I did affirm, still I maintain,
The fiend begotten childe must be found out,
Whose blood gives strength to the foundation;
It cannot stand else.

Enter *Clown* and *Joan*, *Merlin*.

Vorti. Ha! Is't so? 172

Then, *Proximus*, by this intelligence

He should be found: speak, is this he you tell of?

Clown. Yes, Sir, and I his Uncle, and she his mother. 176

Vorti. And who is his father?

Clown. Why, she, his mother, can best tell you that, and yet I think the childe be wise enough, for he has found his father. 180

Vorti. Woman, is this thy son?

Joan. It is, my Lord.

Vor. What was his father? Or where lives he?

Merl. Mother, speak freely and unastonisht; 184

That which you dar'd to act, dread not to name.

Joan. In which I shall betray my sin and shame.

But since it must be so, then know, great King,
All that my self yet knows of him is this: 189

In pride of blood and beauty I did live,
My glass the Altar was, my face the Idol;

Such was my peevish love unto my self,
That I did hate all other; such disdain

Was in my scornful eye that I suppos'd
No mortal creature worthy to enjoy me.

Thus with the Peacock I beheld my train, 195
But never saw the blackness of my feet;

Of have I chid the winds for breathing on me,
And curst the Sun, fearing to blast my beauty.

In midst of this most leoprouis disease,
A seeming fair yong man appear'd unto me,

164 encamp'd D 166 fatal Q: famous T 172
S. D. Joan, joining Merlin WP

In all things suiting my aspiring pride, 201
 And with him brought along a conquering
 power,
 To which my frailty yielded; from whose
 embraces
 This issue came; what more he is, I know
 not. 204
Vorti. Some *Incubus* or Spirit of the night
 Begot him then, for, sure, no mortal did it.
Mer. No matter who, my Lord; leave
 further quest,
 Since 'tis as hurtful so unnecessary
 More to enquire: Go to the cause, my Lord,
 Why you have sought me thus? 210
Vorti. I doubt not but thou knowst; yet, to
 be plain,
 I sought thee for thy blood.
Mer. By whose direction?
Prox. By mine;
 My Art inflexible instructed me, 215
 Upon thy blood must the foundation rise
 Of the Kings building; it cannot stand else.
Mer. Hast thou such leisure to enquire my
 Fate,
 And let thine own hang careless over thee?
 Knowst thou what pendulous mischief roofs
 thy head, 220
 How fatal, and how sudden?
Prox. Pish!
 Bearded abortive, thou foretelst my danger!
 My Lord, he trifles to delay his own.
Mer. No, I yield my self: and here before
 the King 225
 Make good thine Augury, as I shall mine.
 If thy fate fall not, thou hast spoke all truth,
 And let my blood satisfie the Kings desires:
 If thou thy self wilt write thine Epitaph,
 Dispatch it quickly, there's not a minutes
 time 230
 'Twixt thee and thy death.
Prox. Ha, ha, ha!
 [*A stone falls and kills Proximus.*]
Mer. I, so thou mayest die laughing.
Vorti. Ha! This is above admiration: look,
 is he dead? 235
Clown. Yes, sir, here's brains to make mortar
 on, if you'll use them. Cousin *Merlin*, there's
 no more of this stone fruit ready to fall, is
 there? I pray, give your Uncle a little fair
 warning. 240
Mer. Remove that shape of death. And
 now, my Lord,
 For clear satisfaction of your doubts,
Merlin will show the fatal cause that keeps

Your Castle down and hinders your proceed-
 ings.
 Stand there, and by an apparition see 245
 The labor and end of all your destiny.
 Mother and Uncle, you must be absent.
Clown. Is your father coming, Cousin?
Mer. Nay, you must be gone. 249
Joan. Come, you'll offend him, brother.
Clown. I would fain see my Brother i'law;
 if you were married, I might lawfully call him
 so. (*Exeunt Joan and Clown.*) *Merlin*
 strikes his wand. *Thunder and*
 Lightning; two Dragons appear, a
 White and a Red; they fight a while,
 and pause.
Vor. What means this stay?
Mer. Be not amaz'd, my Lord, for on the
 victory, 255
 Of loss or gain, as these two Champions ends,
 Your fate, your life, and kingdom all depends;
 Therefore observe it well.
Vor. I shall: heaven be auspicious to us.
 [*Thunder: The two Dragons fight*
 again, and the White Dragon drives
 off the Red.]
Vor. The conquest is on the white Dragons
 part. 260
 Now, *Merlin*, faithfully expound the meaning.
Mer. Your Grace must then not be offended
 with me.
Vor. It is the weakest part I found in thee,
 To doubt of me so slightly. Shall I blame
 My prophet that foretells me of my dangers?
 Thy cunning I approve most excellent. 266
Mer. Then know, my Lord, there is a
 dampish Cave,
 The nightly habitation of these Dragons,
 Vaulted beneath where you would build your
 Castle,
 Whose enmity and nightly combats there 270
 Maintain a constant ruine of your labors.
 To make it more plain, the Dragons, then,
 Your self betoken and the Saxon King;
 The vanquisht Red is, sir, your dreadful
 Emblem.
Vort. Oh, my fate! 275
Mer. Nay, you must hear with patience,
 Royal sir.
 You slew the lawful King *Constantius*:
 'Twas a red deed, your Crown his blood did
 cement.
 The English *Saxon*, first brought in by you
 For aid against *Constantius* brethren, 280
 244 your Castle *T*, etc., & your fatal Castle *Q* 246
 and the end WP *S. D.* Exeunt. *Clown* add. *T*
 254 stay] *play conj.* *Elze* 263 Is it *D* found] have
 found *T* 271 our labour *T*

211 doubt not *Q*: have no doubt *D* 230 time *Q*:
 space *T* 231 Betwixt *WP* *S. D.* after 231 *Q*
 242-3 End show, down *D*: corr. *pr. ed.*

Is the white horror who now, knit together,
Have driven and shut you up in these wilde
mountains;

And though they now seek to unite with
friendship,

It is to wound your bosom, not embrace it,
And with an utter extirpation 285

To rout the *Brittains* out, and plant the
English.

Seek for your safety, Sir, and spend no time
To build the(e) airy Castles; for Prince *Vter*,

Armed with vengeance for his brothers blood,
Is hard upon you. If you mistrust me, 290

And to my words crave witness, sir, then
know,

Here comes a messenger to tell you so.

[*Exit Mer.*]

Enter Messenger.

Messen. My Lord! Prince *Vter*!

Vort. And who else, sir?

Messen. *Edol*, the great General. 295

Vort. The great Devill! they are coming to
meet us?

Messen. With a full power, my Lord.

Vort. With a full vengeance,

They mean to meet us; so! we are ready
To their confront. At full march, double
footing,

We'll loose no ground, nor shall their numbers
fright us: 300

If it be Fate, it cannot be withstood;

We got our Crown so, be it lost in blood.

[*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE II.

Open Country in Wales.)

Enter Prince Vter, Edol, Cador, Edwin, Tocllo,
with Drum and Soldiers.

Prince. Stay, and advice; hold, drum!

Edol. Beat, slave! why do you pause?

Why make a stand? where are our enemies?
Or do you mean we fight amongst our selves?

Prince. Nay, noble *Edol*, 5

Let us here take counsel, it cannot hurt,
It is the surest Garison to safety.

Edol. Fie on such slow delays! so fearful
men,

That are to pass over a flowing river,
Stand on the bank to parly of the danger, 10

Till the tide rise, and then be swallowed.

Is not the King in field?

Cador. Proud *Vortiger*, the Trator, is in
field.

289 To rout Q: Drive T 288 thee pr. ed.: the Q,
etc. 291 craves Q 299 confront as full Q: corr.
D Scene II. etc. add. T 11 then Q: they T

Edwin. The Murderer and Usurper.

Edol. Let him be the devil, so I may fight
with him. 15

For heavens love, sir, march on! Oh, my
patience!

Will you delay, untill the Saxons come

To aid his party? [*A Tucket.*]

Prince. There's no such fear: prithee, be
calm a while. 19

Hark! it seems by this, he comes or sends to us.

Edol. If it be for parly, I will drown the
summons,

If all our drums and hoarseness choke me not.

Enter Captain.

Prince. Nay, prithee, hear.—From whence
art thou?

Cap. From the King *Vortiger*,

Edol. Traitor, there's none such: Alarum,
drum; strike, slave, 25

Or, by mine honor, I will break thy head,
And beat thy drums heads both about thine
ears.

Prince. Hold, noble *Edol*,

Let's hear what Articles he can inforce.

Edol. What articles or what conditions 30

Can you expect to value half your wrong,
Unless he kill himself by thousand tortures,
And send his carcase to appease your ven-
geance

For the foul murder of *Constantius*,

And that's not a tenth part neither. 35

Prince. 'Tis true,

My brothers blood is crying to me now;
I do applaud thy counsel: hence, be gone!—

[*Exit Capt.*]

We'll hear no parly now but by our swords.

Edol. And those shall speak home in death
killing words: 40

Alarum to the fight; sound, sound the
Alarum. [*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE III.

A Field of Battle.)

Alarum. *Enter Edol, driving all Vortigers*
Force before him, then Exit. Enter Prince
Vter pursuing Vortiger.

Vort. Dost follow me?

Prince. Yes, to thy death I will.

Vort. Stay, be advis'd;

I would not be the onely fall of Princes,
I slew thy brother.

16-17 End on, delay WP: corr. pr. ed. 22 me
repeated Q 27 drums heads Q: drumsticks D
38 appaund Q thy! your T counsels D Scene III.
etc. add. T 1 thy Q: the T 3 I Q: It D

Prince. Thou didst, black Traitor, 5
And in that vengeance I pursue thee.

Vort. Take mercy for thy self, and flie my sword,
Save thine own life as satisfaction,
Which here I give thee for thy brothers death.

Prince. Give what's thine own: a Traitors heart and head, 10
That's all thou art right Lord of. The Kingdom

Which thou usurp'st, thou most unhappy Tyrant,
Is leaving thee; the Saxons which thou broughtst

To back thy usurpations, are grown great,
And where they seat themselves, do hourly seek 15

To blot the Records of old *Brute* and *Brittains*
From memory of men, calling themselves
Hingest-men, and *Hingest-land*, that no more
The *Brittain* name be known: all this by thee,
Thou base destroyer of thy Native Countrey.

Enter Edol.

Edol. What, stand you talking? [*Fight.*
Prince. Hold, *Edol.*

Ed. Hold out, my sword,
And listen not to King or Princes word; 24
There's work enough abroad, this task is mine.
[*Alarum.*

Prince. Prosper thy Valour, as thy Vertues shine.
[*Exeunt.*

⟨SCENE IV.

Another Part of the Field of Battle.⟩

Enter Cador and Edwin.

Cador. Bright Victory her self fights on our part,
And, buckled in a golden Beaver, rides
Triumphantly before us.

Edw. Justice is with her,
Who ever takes the true and rightful cause. 5
Let us not lag behinde them.

Enter Prince.

Cador. Here comes the Prince. How goes our fortunes, Sir?

Prince. Hopeful and fair, brave *Cador*.
Proud *Vortiger*, beat down by *Edols* sword,
Was rescu'd by the following multitudes, 10
And now for safety's fled unto a Castle
Here standing on the hill: but I have sent

A cry of hounds as violent as hunger,
To break his stony walls; or, if they fail,
We'll send in wilde fire to dislodge him thence,
Or burn them all with flaming violence. 16
[*Exeunt.*

⟨SCENE V.

Another Part of the Field.⟩

Blazing Star appears.

Florish Tromp. *Enter Prince Vter, Edol, Cador, Edwin, Tocio, with Drum and Soldiers.*

Prin. Look, *Edol*:
Still this fiery exaltation shoots
His frightful horrors on th'amazed world;
See, in the beam that's 'bout his flaming ring,

A Dragons head appears, from out whose mouth 5
Two flaming flakes of fire stretch East and West.

Edol. And see, from forth the body of the Star

Seven smaller blazing streams directly point
On this affrighted kingdom.

Cador. 'Tis a dreadful Meteor. 10

Edwin. And doth portend strange fears.

Prince. This is no Crown of Peace; this angry fire

Hath something more to burn then *Vortiger*;
If it alone were pointed at his fall,
It would pull in his blasing Pyramids 15
And be appeas'd, for *Vortiger* is dead.

Edol. These never come without their large effects.

Prince. The will of heaven be done! our sorrow's this,

We want a mistick *Pithon* to expound
This fiery Oracle.

Cador. Oh no, my Lord, 20
You have the best that ever *Brittain* bred;
And durst I prophecy of your Prophet, sir,
None like him shall succeed him.

Prince. You mean *Merlin*?

Cador. True, sir, wonderous *Merlin*; 25
He met us in the way, and did foretell
The fortunes of this day successful to us.

Edwin. He's sure about the Camp; send for him, sir.

Cador. He told the bloody *Vortiger* his fate,
And truly too, and if I could give faith 30
To any Wizards skill, it should be *Merlin*.

Scene V] Scene IV etc. T S. D. with repeated Q
1-2 One line D: corr. Elze 4 that's T: that Q 6
flakes Q: snakes T 15 his Q: its T

5 Ends didst WP 7 flie] flec T 18 and Brittain
Hingest-land WP 21 S. D. Fight printed as part
of Edol's speech D Scene IV. D: no new scene T
Another etc. add. WP

Enter Merlin and Clown.

Caðor. And see, my Lord, as if to satisfie
Your Highness pleasure, *Merlin* is come.

Prince. See,
The Comet's in his eye, disturb him not. 35
Edol. With what a piercing judgement he
beholds it!

Mer. Whither will Heaven and Fate trans-
late this Kingdom?

What revolutions, rise and fall of Nations
Is figur'd yonder in that Star, that sings
The change of *Brittians* State and death of
Kings? 40

Ha! He's dead already; how swiftly mischief
creeps!

Thy fatal end, sweet Prince, even *Merlin*
weeps.

Prince. He does foresee some evil, his
action shows it, 43

For, e're he does expound, he weeps the story.

Edol. There's another weeps too. Sirrah,
dost thou understand what thou lamentst for?

Clown. No, sir, I am his Uncle, and weep
because my Cousin weeps; flesh and blood
cannot forbear.

Prince. Gentle *Merlin*, speak thy prophetic
knowledge 50

In explanation of this fiery horror,
From which we gather from thy mournful
tears

Much sorrow and disaster in it.

Mer. 'Tis true,

Fair Prince, but you must hear the rest with
patience. 55

Prince. I vow I will, tho' it portend my
ruine.

Mer. There's no such fear.

This brought the fiery fall of *Vortiger*,
And yet not him alone: this day is fain
A King more good, the glory of our Land, 60
The milde and gentle, sweet *Aurelius*.

Prince. Our brother!

Edwin. Forefend it heaven!

Mer. He at his Palace Royal, sir, 64
At *Winchester*, this day is dead and poison'd.

Caðor. By whom? Or what means, *Merlin*?

Mer. By the Traiterous Saxons.

Edol. I ever fear'd as much: that devil
Ostorius

And the damn'd witch *Artesia*, sure, has done it.

Prince. Poison'd! oh, look further, gentle
Merlin, 70

Behold the Star agen, and do but finde
Revenge for me, though it cost thousand lives,
And mine the foremost.

Mer. Comfort your self, the heavens have
given it fully:

All the portentious ills to you is told. 75
Now hear a happy story, sir, from me
To you and to your fair posterity.

Clown. Me thinks, I see something like
a peel'd Onion; it makes me weep agen. 79

Mer. Be silent, Uncle, you'll be forc't else.

Clown. Can you not finde in the Star, Cousin,
whether I can hold my tongue or no?

Edol. Yes, I must cut it out.

Clown. Phu, you speak without book, sir,
my Cousin *Merlin* knows. 85

Mer. True, I must tie it up. Now speak
your pleasure, Uncle.

Clown. Hum, hum, hum, hum.

Mer. So, so.—

Now observe, my Lord, and there behold, 90
Above yon flame-hair'd beam that upward
shoots,

Appears a Dragons head, out of whose mouth
Two streaming lights point their flame-fea-
ther'd darts

Contrary ways, yet both shall have their aims:
Again behold, from the ignifrent body 95
Seven splendant and illustrious rays are spred,
All speaking Heralds to this *Brittain* Isle,
And thus they are expounded: The Dragons
head

Is the Heroglyphick that figures out 99
Your Princely self, that here must reign a King;
Those by-form'd fires that from the Dragons
mouth

Shoot East and West, emblem two Royal babes,
Which shall proceed from you, a son and
daughter.

Her pointed constellation, Northwest bending,
Crowns Her a Queen in *Ireland*, of whom first
springs 105

That Kingdoms Title to the *Brittain* Kings.

Clown. Hum, hum, hum.

Mer. But of your Son thus Fate and *Merlin*
tells:

All after times shall fill their Chronicles
With fame of his renown, whose warlike
sword 110

Shall pass through fertile *France* and *Germany*;
Nor shall his conquering foot be forc't to
stand,

Till *Romes* Imperial Wreath hath crown'd his
Fame

32-3 Three lines *D*, div. after Lord, pleasure: corr.
pr. ed. 40 State *Q*: fate *T* 52 By which *Molt*.
56 Prefix *Mer* *Q* 59 him] his conj. *Elze* 66
what] by what *T*

79 Oinon *Q* 84 Phu *Q*: O, ha *D* 95 ignifrent
Q: ignisirent *T*: igniferous *D* 104 bending *Q*:
tending *D* 112 conquering *T*, etc.: conjuring *Q*

With Monarch of the West, from whose seven hills,

With Conquest and contributory Kings, 115
He back returns to enlarge the *Brittain* bounds,
His Heraldry adorn'd with thirteen Crowns.

Clown. Hum, hum, hum.

Mer. He to the world shall add another
Worthy,

And, as a Loadstone, for his prowess draw 120
A train of Marshal Lovers to his Court:

It shall be then the best of Knight-hoods
honor,

At *Winchester* to fill his Castle Hall,
And at his Royal Table sit and feast 124

In warlike orders, all their arms round hurl'd,
As if they meant to circumscribe the world.

[*he touches the Clowns mouth with his wand.*

Clown. Hum, hum, hum: oh, that I could
speak a little!

Mer. I know your mind, Uncle; agen be
silent. [strikes agen.

Prince. Thou speakst of wonders, *Merlin*;
prithee, go on,

Declare at full this Constellation. 130

Mer. Those seven beams pointing down-
ward, sir, betoken

The troubles of this Land, which then shall
meet

With other Fate: War and Dissension strives
To make division, till seven Kings agree

To draw this Kingdom to a Hepterchy. 135

Prince. Thine art hath made such proof
that we believe

Thy words authentical: be ever neer us,
My Prophet and the Guide of all my actions.

Mer. My service shall be faithful to your
person,

And all my studies for my Countries safety. 140

Clown. Hum, hum, hum.

Mer. Come, you are releast, sir.

Clown. Cousin, pray, help me to my tongue
agen; you do not mean I shall be dumb still,
I hope? 145

Mer. Why, hast thou not thy tongue?

Clown. Ha! yes, I feel it now, I was so long
dumb, I could not well tell whether I spake
or no.

Prince. Is't thy advice we presently pur-
sue 149

The bloody *Saxons*, that have slain my brother?

Mer. With your best speed, my Lord;

Prosperity will keep you company.

Cador. Take, then, your Title with you,
Royal Prince,

'Twill add unto our strength: *Long live King*
Uter! 155

153 you *Q*: your *T*

Edol. Put the Addition to't that Heaven
hath given you:

The *DRAGON* is your Emblem, bear it bravely,
And so live long and ever happy, styl'd
Vier-Pendragon, lawful King of *Brittain*.

Prince. Thanks, *Edol*, we imbrace the
name and title, 160

And in our Shield and Standard shall the figure
Of a Red Dragon still be born before us,
To fright the bloody Saxons. Oh, my *Aurelius*,
Sweet rest thy soul; let thy disturbed spirit
Expect revenge; think what it would, it hath:
The Dragon's coming in his fiery wrath. 166

[*Exeunt.*

ACT 5.

SCENE I.

(*A barren Waste, a huge Rock appearing.*)

Thunder, then Musick.

Enter Joan fearfully, the Devil following her.

Joan. Hence, thou black horror! is thy
lustful fire

Kindled agen? Not thy loud throated thunder
Nor thy adulterate infernal Musick

Shall e're bewitch me more: oh, too too
much

Is past already. 5

Devil. Why dost thou fly me?

I come a Lover to thee, to imbrace
And gently twine thy body in mine arms.

Joan. Out, thou Hell-hound!

Devil. What hound so e're I be, 10
Fawning and sporting as I would with thee,

Why should I not be stroakt and plaid withal?
Will't thou not thank the Lion might devour

thee,
If he shall let thee pass?

Joan. Yes, thou art he;

Free me, and Ile thank thee.

Devil. Why, whither wouldst?
I am at home with thee, thou art mine own,

Have we not charge of family together? 17
Where is your son?

Joan. Oh, darkness cover me!

Devil. There is a pride which thou hast
won by me,

The mother of a fame, shall never die. 20
Kings shall have need of written Chronicles

To keep their names alive, but *Merlin* none;
Ages to ages shall like *Sabalists*

Report the wonders of his name and glory,
While there are tongues and times to tell his
story. 25

Joan. Oh, rot my memory before my flesh,

158 live long *T*: long live *Q* *S. D.* A barren etc.
add. *T* 23 *Sabalists Q*: satellites *D*

Let him be called some hell or earth-bred monster,

That ne're had hapless woman for a mother!
Sweet death, deliver me! Hence from my sight:
Why shouldst thou now appear? I had no pride 30

Nor lustful thought about me, to conjure
And call thee to my ruine, when as at first
Thy cursed person became visible.

Devil. I am the same I was.

Joan. But I am chang'd.

Devil. Agen Ile change thee to the same
thou wert, 35
To quench my lust.—Come forth, by thunder
led,

My Coajutors in the spoils of mortals. [*Thunder.*

Enter Spirit.

Claspe in your Ebon arms that prize of mine,
Mount her as high as palled *Hecate*;
And on this rock Ile stand to cast up fumes 40
And darkness o're the blew fac'd firmament:
From *Brittain* and from *Merlin* Ile remove her.
They ne're shall meet agen.

Joan. Help me some saving hand,
If not too late, I cry: let mercy come! 45

Enter Merlin.

Mer. Stay, you black slaves of night, let
loose your hold,
Set her down safe, or by th'infernal Stix,
Ile binde you up with exorcisms so strong,
That all the black pentagoron of hell 49
Shall ne're release you. Save your selves and
vanish! [*Exit Spirit.*

Devil. Ha! What's he?

Mer. The *Childe* has found his *Father*. Do
you not know me?

Devil. *Merlin!*

Joan. Oh, help me, gentle son.

Mer. Fear not, they shall not hurt you. 55
Devil. Relievst thou her to disobey thy
father?

Mer. Obedience is no lesson in your school;
Nature and kind to her commands my duty;
The part that you begot was against kinde,
So all I ow to you is to be unkind. 60

Devil. Ile blast thee, slave, to death, and
on this rock
Stick thee (as) an eternal Monument.

Mer. Ha, ha, thy powers too weak; what
art thou, devil,
But an inferior lustful *Incubus*,
Taking advantage of the wanton flesh, 65

Wherewith thou dost beguile the ignorant?

Put off the form of thy humanity,
And cral upon thy speckled belly, serpent,
Or Ile unclasp the jaws of *Achoron*,
And fix thee ever in the local fire. 70

Devil. Traitor to hell! curse that I e're
begot thee!

Mer. Thou didst beget thy scourge: storm
not, nor stir;

The power of *Merlins* Art is all confirm'd
In the Fates decretals. Ile ransack hell,
And make thy masters bow unto my spells. 75
Thou first shall taste it.—

[*Thunder and Lightning in the Rock.*

*Tenibrarum princeps, devitiarum & infirorum
Deus, hunc Incubum in ignis eterni abisum
accipite, aut in hoc carcere tenebroso in sempe-
ternum astringere mando.* 80

[*the Rock incloses him.*

Sol there beget earthquakes or some noisom
damps,

For never shalt thou touch a woman more.—
How cheer you, mother?

Joan. Oh, now my son is my deliverer, 84
Yet I must name him with my deepest sorrow.

[*Alarum afar off.*

Mer. Take comfort now: past times are
ne're recal'd;

I did foresee your mischief, and prevent it.
Hark, how the sounds of war now call me
hence

To aid *Pendragon* that in battail stands
Against the Saxons, from whose aid 90
Merlin must not be absent. Leave this
soyl,

And Ile conduct you to a place retir'd,
Which I by art have rais'd, call'd *Merlins
Bower.*

There shall you dwell with solitary sighs,
With grones and passions your companions,
To weep away this flesh you have offended
with, 96

And leave all bare unto your aierial soul:
And when you die, I will erect a Monument
Upon the verdant Plains of *Salisbury*,
No King shall have so high a sepulchre, 100
With pendulous stones that I will hang by
art,

Where neither Lime nor Morter shalbe us'd,
A dark *Enigma* to the memory,
For none shall have the power to number
them,—

A place that I will hollow for your rest, 105

28 a] his *T* 38 quench to *Q* *S. D.* Spirits *D*,
etc. 50 your] you *Q* *S. D.* Exeunt Spirits *D*,
etc. 62 an *Q*: as an *D*

75 master *T* spell *D* 76 shalt *T*, *etc.* 77
princeps *conj.* *Elze*: precis *Q* 81 some *om.* *D*
103 the *Q*: thy *T*: men's *conj.* *WP* 105 hollow *Q*:
hallow *T*, *etc.*

Where no Night-hag shall walk, nor Ware-
wolf tread,
Where *Merlins* Mother shall be sepulcher'd.
[*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE II.

The British Camp.)

Enter Donobert, Gloster, and Hermit.

Dono. Sincerely, *Gloster*, I have told you
all:

My Daughters are both vow'd to Single Life,
And this day gone unto the Nunnery,
Though I begot them to another end,
And fairly promis'd them in Marriage, 5
One to Earl *Cador*, t'other to your son,
My worthy friend, the Earl of *Gloster*.
Those lost, I am lost: they are lost, all's
lost.

Answer me this, then: Ist a sin to marry?

Hermit. Oh no, my Lord. 10

Dono. Go to, then, Ile go no further with
you;

I perswade you to no ill; perswade you, then,
That I perswade you well.

Gloster. 'Twill be a good Office in you, sir.

Enter Cador and Edwin.

Dono. Which since they thus neglect, 15
My memory shall lose them now for ever.—
See, see, the Noble Lords, their promis'd Hus-
bands!

Had Fate so pleas'd, you might have call'd me
Father.

Edwin. Those hopes are past, my Lord;
for even this minute

We saw them both enter the Monastery, 20
Secluded from the world and men for ever.

Cador. 'Tis both our griefs we cannot, Sir:
But from the King take you the Times joy
from us:

The Saxon King *Ostorius* slain and *Octa* fled,
That Woman-fury, Queen *Artesia*, 25
Is fast in hold, and forc't to re-deliver
London and *Winchester* (which she had for-
tifi'd)

To Princely *Vter*, lately styl'd *Pendragon*,
Who now triumphantly is marching hither
To be invested with the *Brittain* Crown. 30

Dono. The joy of this shall banish from
my breast

All thought that I was Father to two Children,
Two stubborn Daughters, that have left me
thus.

Let my old arms embrace, and call you Sons,

Scene II, etc. add. T 3 unto] into T 19 even
Q: ever T 23 you the] the conj. WP 30
British T

For, by the Honor of my Fathers House, 35
I'll part my estate most equally betwixt you.
Edwin, Cador. Sir y'are most noble!

Flor. Tromp. Enter *Edol* with Drum and
Colours, *Oswold* bearing the Standard,
Toclio the Sheild, with the Red Dragon
pictur'd in'em, two Bishops with the
Crown, Prince *Vter*, *Merlin*, *Artesia*
bound, Guard, and Clown.

Prince. Set up our Sheild and Standard,
noble Soldiers.

We have firm hope that, tho' our Dragon
sleep,

Merlin will us and our fair Kingdom keep. 40

Clown. As his Uncle lives, I warrant you.

Glost. Happy Restorer of the *Brittains* fame,
Uprising Sun, let us salute thy glory:

Ride in a day perpetual about us,
And no night be in thy thrones zodiack. 45

Why do we stay to binde those Princely brows
With this Imperial Honor?

Prince. Stay, noble *Gloster*:
That monster first must be expel'd our eye,
Or we shall take no joy in it.

Dono. If that be hindrance, give her quick
Judgement, 50

And send her hence to death; she has long
deserv'd it.

Edol. Let my Sentence stand for all: take
her hence,

And stake her carcase in the burning Sun,
Till it be parcht and dry, and then fley off

Her wicked skin, and stuff the pelt with straw
To be shown up and down at Fairs and
Markets: 56

Two pence a piece to see so foul a Monster
Will be a fair Monopoly, and worth the

begging.

Artes. Ha, ha, ha!

Edol. Dost laugh, *Erictho*?

Artes. Yes, at thy poor invention.
Is there no better torture-monger? 61

Dono. Burn her to dust.

Artes. That's a *Phænix* death, and glorious.

Edol. I, that's to good for her.

Prince. Alive she shall be buried, circled
in a wall. 65

Thou murrless of a King, there starve to
death.

Artes. Then Ile starve death when he comes
for his prey,

And i'th' mean time Ile live upon your curses.
Edol. I, 'tis diet good enough; away with
her.

39 firm Q: fair T 58 will Q: 'Twill WP and
... begging om. T 69 'tis diet Q: it is I)

Artes. With joy, my best of wishes is before;
Thy brother's poison'd, but I wanted more. 70

[*Exit.*
Prince. Why does our Prophet *Merlin* stand apart,
Sadly observing these our Ceremonies,
And not applaud our joys with thy hid knowledge?

Let thy divining Art now satisfie 75
Some part of my desires; for well I know,
'Tis in thy power to show the full event,
That shall both end our Reign and Chronicle.
Speak, learned *Merlin*, and resolve my fears,
Whether by war we shal expel the Saxons, 80
Or govern what we hold with beauteous peace
In *Wales* and *Brittain*?

Mer. Long happiness attend *Pendragons* Reign!
What Heaven decrees, fate hath no power to alter:

The Saxons, sir, will keep the ground they have,
And by supplying numbers still increase, 86
Till *Brittain* be no more. So please your Grace,

I will in visible apparitions
Present you Prophecies which shall concern
Succeeding Princes which my Art shall raise,
Till men shali call these times the latter days.

Prince. Do it, my *Merlin*, 92
And Crown me with much joy and wonder.

86 in cease Q

Merlin strikes. Hoebays. Enter a King in Armour, his Sheild quarter'd with thirteen Crowns. At the other door enter divers Princes who present their Crowns to him at his feet, and do him homage; then enters Death and strikes him; he, growing sick, Crowns Constantine. Exeunt.

Mer. This King, my Lord, presents your Royal Son,
Who in his prime of years shall be so fortunate,
That thirteen several Princes shall present 96
Their several Crowns unto him, and all Kings

else
Shall so admire his fame and victories,
That they shall all be glad,
Either through fear or love, to do him homage;
But death (who neither favors the weak nor
valliant) 101
In the midst of all his glories soon shall

seize him,
Scarcely permitting him to appoint one
In all his purchased Kingdoms to succeed him.

Prince. Thanks to our Prophet 105
For this so wish'd for satisfaction;
And hereby now we learn that always Fate
Must be observ'd, what ever that decree:
All future times shall still record this Story,
Of *Merlin's* learned worth and *Arthur's* glory.
[*Exeunt Omnes.*

FINIS.

97 to him T 101 favours neither T

〈SIR THOMAS MORE

AN ANONYMOUS PLAY OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY
ASCRIBED IN PART TO SHAKESPEARE.

FIRST PRINTED IN 1844

AND HERE RE-EDITED FROM THE HARLEIAN MS. 7368 IN THE
BRITISH MUSEUM〉

- MS.*** = Manuscript, Harley 7368
Dyce = Dyce's edition, 1844
Spedding = conjectures in *Reviews and Discussions*, 1879
H = Hopkinson, 1902
pr. ed. = present editor

〈SIR THOMAS MORE〉¹

〈DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Earl of SHREWSBURY.
 Earl of SURREY.
 Sir THOMAS PALMER.
 Sir ROGER CHOLMLEY.
 Sir JOHN MUNDAY.
 Sir THOMAS MORE.
 Lord Mayor.
 Aldermen.
 SURESBY, a Justice.
 Other Justices.
 Sheriffs.
 Recorder.
 Sergeant at Arms.
 Clerk of the Council.
 ERASMUS.
 Bishop of ROCHESTER.
 ROPER, son-in-law to MORE.
 JOHN LINCOLN, a broker.
 GEORGE BETTS.
 His brother (the 'Clown').
 WILLIAMSON, a carpenter.
 SHERWIN, a goldsmith.
 FRANCIS DE BARDE, } Lombards.
 CAVELER, }
 LIFTER, a cut-purse.
 SMART, plaintiff against him.

HARRY, }
 ROBIN, } Prentices.
 KIT, and others, }
 MORRIS.
 FAULKNER, his servant.
 Players.
 GOUGH, }
 CATESBY, } Belonging to MORE's
 RANDALL, } household.
 Butler, }
 Brewer, }
 Porter, }
 Horsekeeper, }
 CROFTS.
 DOWNES.
 Lieutenant, }
 Warders, } of the Tower.
 Gentleman Porter, }
 Hangman.
 Lords, Gentlemen, Officers, Messengers,
 Guard, Attendants.
 Lady MORE.
 Lady Mayoress.
 Mistress ROPER, daughter to MORE.
 Another daughter to MORE.
 DOLL, wife to WILLIAMSON.
 A Poor Woman.
 Ladies.)²

〈ACT I.

SCENE I.—London. A Street.)

Enter, at one end, Iohn Lincolne, with (the two Bettises) together; at the other end, enters Fraunces de (Barde, and Doll) a lustie woman, he haling her by the arme.

Doll. Whether wilt thou hale me?

Bard. Whether I please; thou art my prize, and I pleade purchase of thee.

Doll. Purchase of me! away, ye rascall! I am an honest plaine carpenters wife, and thoughe I haue no beautie to like a husband, yet whatsoeuer is mine scornes to stoupe to a stranger: hand off, then, when I bid thee!

Bard. Goe with me quietly, or Ile compell thee. 10

Doll. Compell me, ye dogges face! thou thinkst thou hast the goldsmiths wife in hand, whom thou enticedst from her husband with all his plate, and when thou turndst her home to him againe, madste him, like an asse, pay for his wifes boorde. 16

Bard. So will I make thy husband too, if please me.

Enter Caueler with a paire of doones; Williamson the carpenter, and Sherwin following him.

Doll. Heere he comes himselfe; tell him so, if thou darste. 20

Cau. Followe me no further; I say thou shalt not haue them.

Wil. I bought them in Cheapeside, and paide my monie for them.

Sher. He did, sir, indeed; and you offer

¹ Sir Thomas More] *The name of the play is not given in the MS.* ² Add, Dyce Act I. Scene I. *S. D. Bracketed words add, Dyce*

him wrong, bothe to take them from him, and not restore him his monie neither. 27

Caue. If he paid for them, let it suffice that I possesse them: beefe and brewes may serue such hindes; are piggions meate for a coorse carpenter? 31

Lin. It is hard when Englishmens pacience must be thus jettod on by straungers, and they not dare to reuendge their owne wrongs.

Geo. Lincolne, lets beate them downe, and beare no more of these abuses. 36

Lin. We may not, Betts: be pacient, and heare more.

Doll. How now, husband! what, one straunger take thy food from thee, and another thy wife! bir-Lady, flesh and blood, I thinke, can hardly brooke that. 42

Lin. Will this geere neuer be otherwise? must these wrongs be thus endured?

Geo. Let vs step in, and help to reuendge their iniurie. 46

Bard. What art thou that talkest of reuendge? my lord ambassadour shall once more make your Maior haue a check, if he punishe thee not for this saucie presumption.

Will. Indeed, my lord Maior, on the ambassadours complainte, sent me to Newgate one day, because (against my will) I tooke the wall of a straunger: you may doo any thing; the goldsmith's wife and mine now must be at your comaundment. 56

Geo. The more pacient fooles are ye bothe, to suffer it.

Bard. Suffer it! mend it thou or he, if ye can or dare. I tell thee, fellowe, and she were the Maior of Londons wife, had I her once in my possession, I would keep her in spite of him that durst say nay. 63

Geo. I tell thee, Lombard, these wordes should cost thy best cappe, were I not curbd by dutie and obedience: the Maior of Londons wife! Oh God, shall it be thus? 67

Doll. Why, Bettes, am not I as deare to my husband as my lord Maiors wife to him? and wilt thou so neglectly suffer thine owne shame?

—Hands off, proude stranger! or, (by) him that bought me, if mens milkie harts dare not strike a straunger, yet women will beate them downe, ere they beare these abuses. 74

Bard. Mistresse, I say you shall along with me.

Doll. Touche not Doll Williamson, least she lay thee along on Gods deare earthie.— And you, sir (To Caueler), that allow such coorse cates to carpenters, whilst pidgions, which they pay for, must serue your daintie

appetite, deliuer them back to my husband again, or Ile call so many women to myne assistance as weele not leaue one inche vntorne of thee: if our husbands must be brieded by lawe, and forced to beare your wrongs, their wiues will be a little lawelesse, and soundly beate ye. 88

Caue. Come away, De Bard, and let vs goe complaine to my lord ambassadour. [*Ex. Ambo.*]

Doll. I, goe, and send him among vs, and weele giue him his welcome too.—I am ashamed that freeborne Englishmen, hauing beatten straungers within their owne homes, should thus be brau'de and abuse by them at home. 96

Sher. It is not our lack of courage in the cause, but the strict obedience that we are bound too. I am the goldsmith whose wrongs you talkte of; but how to redresse yours or mine owne is a matter beyond all our abilities.

Lin. Not so, not so, my good freends: I, though a meane man, a broaker by profession, and namd Iohn Lincolne, haue long time winckt at these vilde enormities with mighty impacience, and, as these two bretheren heere (Bettes by name) can witnesse, with losse of mine owne liffe would gladly remedie them.

Geo. And he is in a good forwardnesse, I tell ye, if all hit right. 110

Doll. As how, I prethee? tell it to Doll Williamson.

Lin. You knowe the Spittle sermons begin the next weeke: I haue drawne a (bill) of our wrongs and the straungers insolencies. 115

Geo. Which he meanes the preachers shall there openly publishe in the pulpit.

Wil. Oh, but that they would! yfaith, it would tickle our straungers thorowly. 119

Doll. I, and if you men durst not vndertake it, before God, we women (would. Take) an honest woman from her husband! why, it is intollerable.

Sher. But how finde ye the preachers affected to (our proceeding)? 125

Lin. Master Doctor Standish (hath answered that it becomes not him to move any such thing in his sermon, and tells us we must move the Mayor and aldermen to) (re)forme it, and doubts not but happie successe will ensue on statement of) our wrongs. You shall perceiue ther's no hurt in the bill: heer's a copie of it; I pray ye, heare it.

114 bill add. Dyce 121 would. Take add. Dyce
125 our proceeding add. Dyce 126-9 hath.. aldermen
to add. H: MS. illegible 129 reforme Dyce
131 ensue on statement of pr. ed.: ensure redress of
H: MS. illegible

All. With all our harts; for Gods sake,
read it. 135

Lin. (reads.) To you all, the worshipfull
lords and maisters of this cittie, that will take
compassion ouer the poore people your neigh-
bours, and also of the greaile importable hurts,
losses, and hindaunces, wherof proceedeth
extream pouertie to all the kings subiects that
inhabite within this cittie and subburbs of the
same: ffor so it is that aliens and straungers
eate the bread from the fatherlesse children, and
take the liuing from all the artificers and the
entercourse from all merchants, wherby pouertie
is so much encreased, that euery man bewayleth
the miserie of other; for craftsmen be brought to
beggerie, and merchants to needines: wherfore,
the premisses considered, the redresse must be
of the commons knit and vnited to one parte:
and as the hurt and damage greueth all men,
so must all men see to their willing power for
remedie, and not suffer the sayde aliens in
their wealth, and the naturall borne men of this
region to come to confusion. 156

Doll. Before God, tis excellent; and Ile
maintaine the suite to be honest.

Sher. Well, say tis read, what is your
further meaning in the matter? 160

Geo. What! marie, list to me. No doubt
but this will store vs with freends enow, whose
names we will closely keepe in writing; and
on May day next in the morning wee le goe
foorth a Maying, but make it the wurst May
day for the straungers that euer they sawe.
How say ye? doo ye subscribe, or are ye faint-
harted reuolters? 168

Doll. Holde thee, George Bettes, ther's my
hand and my hart: by the Lord, Ile make
a captaine among ye, and doo somewhat to
be talke of for euer after.

Wil. My maisters, ere we parte, lets
freendly goe and drinke together, and sweare
true secrecie vpon our liues. 175

Geo. There spake an angell. Come, let vs
along, then. [Exeunt.]

(SCENE II.—London. The Sessions House.)

An arras is drawne, and behinde it (as in
sessions) sit the L...Maioir, Iustice Suresbie,
and other Iustices; Sheriffe Moore and the
other Sherife sitting by. Smart is the
plaintife, Lifter the prisoner at the barre.
(Recorder, Officers.)

L. Mai. Hauing dispatche our weightier
businesses,
We may giue eare to pettie felonies.

Scene II, etc. add. H S. D. Recorder etc. add. Dyce.

M(aiste)r Sheriffe Moore, what is this fellowe?
Moore. My lord, he stands indited for a
pursse;

He hath bin tryed, the jurie is together. 5

Mai. Who sent him in?

Sure. That did I, my lord:

Had he had right, he had bin hangd ere this;

The only captayne of the cutpursse crewe.

L. Mai. What is his name? 10

Sure. As his profession is, Lifter, my lord,
One that can lift a purse right cunningly.

L. Mai. And is that he accuses him?

Sure. The same, my lord, whom, by your
honors leaue,

I must say somewhat too, because I finde 15

In some respectes he is well woorthie blame.

L. Mai. Good M(aiste)r Justice Suresbie,
speake your minde;

We are well pleasse to giue you audience.

Sure. Heare me, Smart; thou art a foolish
fellowe:

If Lifter be conuicted by the lawe, 20

As I see not how the jurie can acquit him,

Ile stand too't thou art guiltie of his death.

Moore. My lord, thats woorthie the hearing.

L. Mai. Listen, then, good Maister Moore.

Sure. I tell thee plaine, it is a shame for
thee, 25

With such a sum to tempte necessitie;

No lesse then ten poundes, sir, will serue your
turne,

To carie in your pursse about with ye,

To crake and brag in tauernes of your monie:

I promise ye, a man that goes abroad 30

With an intent of trueth, meetings such a bootie,

May be prouokte to that he neuer meante.

What makes so many pilferers and fellows,

But such fond baites that foolish people lay

To tempt the needie miserable wretche? 35

Ten poundes, odd monie; this is a prettie sum

To beare about, which were more safe at
home.

Fore God, twere well to fine ye as much more

[Lord Maioir and Moore whisper.]

To the releefe of the po(ore pri)soners,

To teache ye be (more careful of) your owne, 40

(In sooth, I say ye were but) rightlie seru'de.

(If ye had lost as much as twice ten poundes.)

Moore. Good my lord, soothe a (point or
two) for once,

Only to trye conclusions in this case.

L. Maioir. Content, good M(aiste)r Moore:
weele rise awhile, 45

And, till the jurie can returne their verdict,

Walke in the garden.—How saye ye, Iustices?

39 po(ore pri)soners Dyce

40-3 Bracketed words

add. H : MS. illegible

All. We like it well, my lord; weele follow ye. [*Ex. L. Maior and Iustices.*]

Moore Nay, plaintife, goe you too;—and, officers, [*Ex. Smart.*]

Stand you aside, and leaue the prisoner 50
To me awhile.—Lifter, come hether.

Lift. What is your woorships pleasure?

Moore. Sirra, you knowe that you are knowne to me,

And I haue often sau'de ye from this place,
Since first I came in office: thou seest beside,
That Justice Suresbie is thy heauie freend, 56
By all the blame that he pretends to Smarte,
For tempting thee with such a summe of monie.

I tell thee what; deuise me but a meanes
To pick or cutt his pursse, and, on my credit,
And as I am a Christian and a man, 61
I will procure thy pardon for that jeast.

Lift. Good M(aiste)r Shreeue, seeke not my ouerthrowe:

You knowe, sir, I haue manie heauie freends,
And more endictments like to come vppon me.
You are too deepe for me to deale withall; 66
You are knowne to be one of the wisest men
That is in England: I pray ye, M(aiste)r Sheriffe,
Goe not aboute to vndermine my life.

Moore. Lifter, I am true subiect to my king;
Thou much mistakste me: and, for thou shalt
not thinke 71

I meane by this to hurt thy life at all,
I will maintaine the act when thou hast doone it.

Thou knowest there are such matters in my hands,

As if I please to giue them to the iurie, 75
I should not need this way to circumuent thee.
All that I aime at is a merrie iest:

Performe it, Lifter, and expect my best.

Lift. I thanke your woorship: God preserue your life!

But Master Justice Suresbie is gon in; 80
I knowe not how to come neere where he is.

Moore. Let me alone for that; Ile be thy setter;

Ile send him hether to thee presently,
Vnder the couller of thine owne request,
Of priuate matters to acquainte him with. 85

Lift. If ye doo so, sir, then let me alone;
Fortie to one but then his pursse is gon.

Moore. Wellsaid: but see that thou diminish not

One penie of the monie, but giue it me;
It is the cunning act that credits thee. 90

Lift. I will, good Master Sheriffe, I assure ye. [*Ex. Moore.*]

I see the purpose of this gentleman
Is but to check the follie of the Justice,
For blaming others in a desperate case,
Wherin himselfe may fall as soone as any. 95
To saue my life, it is a good aduenter:
Silence there, hoel now dooth the Justice enter.

Ent. Iust. Suresbie.

Sure. Now, sirra, now, what is your will with me?

Wilt thou discharge thy conscience like an honest man? 99

What sayst to me, sirra? be breefe, be brief.

Lift. As breefe, sir, as I can.—

If ye stand fayre, I will be breefe anon. [*Aside.*]

Sure. Speake out, and mumble not; what saist thou, sirra?

Lift. Sir, I am chargde, as God shall be my comforte,

With more then's true. 105

Sure. Sir, sir, ye are indeed, with more then's true,

For you are flatly chargde with felonie;

You'r chargde with more then trueth, and that is theft;

More then a true man should be chargde withall; 109

Thou art a varlet, that's no more then true.

Trifle not with me; doo not, doo not, sirra;

Confesse but what thou knowest, I aske no more.

Lift. There be, sir, there be, ift shall please your woorship—

Sure. There be, varlet! what be there? tell me what there be. 114

Come off or on: there be! what be there, knaue?

Lift. There be, sir, diuers very cunning fellows,

That, while you stand and looke them in the face,

Will haue your pursse.

Sure. Th'art an honest knaue:

Tell me what are they? where they may be caught? 120

I, those are they I looke for.

Lift. You talke of me, sir;

Alas, I am a punie! ther's one indeed
Goes by my name, he puts downe all for purses;

<He'll steal your worship's purse under your nose. 125

Sure. Ha, ha! Art thou so sure, varlet? Well, well,

Be) as familiare as thou wilt, my knaue;
Tis this I long to knowe.

Lift. And you shall haue your longing ere
ye goe.—

This fellowe, sir, perhaps will meete ye
thus, 130

Or thus, or thus, and in kinde complement
Pretend acquaintance, somewhat doubtfully;
And these embraces serue——

Sure. I, marie, Lifter, wherfore serue they?
[*Shrugging gladly.*]

Lift. Only to feele 135
Whether you goe full vnder saile or no,
Or that your lading be aboard your barke.

Sure. In playner English, Lifter, if my
pursse
Be storde or no?

Lift. Ye haue it, sir. 140

Sure. Excellent, excellent.

Lift. Then, sir, you cannot but for manners
sake

Walke on with him; for he will walke your
way,

Allading either you haue much forgot him,
Or he mistakes you. 145

Sure. But in this time has he my pursse
or no?

Lift. Not yet, sir, fye!—no, nor I haue not
yours.— (*Aside.*)

Ent. Lord Maior, &c.

But now we must forbear; my lords returne.

Sure. A murren on't!—Lifter, weele more
annon: 149

I, thou sayst true, there are shrewde knaues
indeed; [*He sits downe.*]

But let them gull me, widgen me, rooke me,
foppe me!

Yfaith, yfaith, they are too short for me.

Knaues and foolles meete when pursses goe;
Wise men looke to their pursses well enough.

Moore. Lifter, is it doone? 155

Lift. Doone, M(aiste)r Shreeue; }
and there it is. (*Aside.*)

Moore. Then builde vpon my }
woord, Ile saue thy life.

Recor. Lifter, stand to the barre:

The iurie haue returnd thee guiltie; thou
must dye,

According to the custome.—Looke to it,
M(aiste)r Shreeue. 160

L. Maior. Then, gentlemen, as you are
wunt to doo,

Because as yet we haue no buriall place,
What charitie your meaning's to bestowe

Toward buriall of the prisoners now con-
demnde,

Let it be giuen. There is first for me. 165

Recor. And thers for me.

Another. And me.

Sure. Bodie of me, my pursse is gon!

Moore. Gon, sir! what, heere! how can
that be?

L. Maior. Against all reason, sitting on
the benche. 170

Sure. Lifter, I talkte with you; you haue
not lifted me? ha!

Lift. Suspect ye me, sir? Oh, what a world
is this!

Moore. But heare ye, M(aiste)r Suresbie;
are ye sure

Ye had a pursse about ye?

Sure. Sure, M(aiste)r Shreeue! as sure as
you are there, 175

And in it seauen poundes, odd monie, on my
faith.

Moore. Seauen poundes, odd monie! what,
were you so madd,

Beeing a wise man and a magistrate,

To trust your pursse with such a liberall
sum?

Seauen poundes, odd monie! fore God, it is a
shame, 180

With such a summe to tempt necessitie:

I promise ye, a man that goes abroad
With an intent of trueth, meeting such a bootie,

May be wrought to that he neuer thought.

What makes so many pilferers and fellows, 185

But these fond baites that foolish people lay

To tempt the needie miserable wretche?

Should he be taken now that has your pursse,

Ide stand too't, you are guiltie of his death;

For, questionlesse, he would be cast by lawe.

Twere a good deed to fine ye as much more,

To the reliefe of the poore prisoners, 192

To teache ye lock your monie vp at home.

Sure. Well, M(aiste)r Moore, you are a
merie man;

I finde ye, sir, I finde ye well enough. 195

Moore. Nay, ye shall see, sir, trusting thus
your monie,

And Lifter here in triall for like case,

But that the poore man is a prisoner,

It would be now suspected that he had it. 199

Thus may ye see what mischeefe often comes

By the fond cariage of such needlesse summes.

L. Maior. Beleue me, M(aiste)r Suresbie,
this is strange,

You, beeing a man so settled in assurraunce,
Will fall in that which you condemnd in other.

Moore. Well, M(aiste)r Suresbie, theres
your pursse agayne, 205

And all your monie: feare nothing of Moore;
Wisedome still (keeps the mean and locks) the
doore.

(SCENE III.—London. A state apartment.)

*Enter the Earles of Shrewesburie and Surrie,
Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir Roger
Cholmeley.*

Shrew. My lord of Surrey, and Sir Thomas
Palmer,
Might I with pacience tempte your graue
aduise,

I tell ye true, that in these daungerous times
I doo not like this frowning vulgare brow:

My searching eye did neuer entertaïne 5

A more distracted countenance of greefe

Then I haue late obseru'de

In the displeased commons of the cittie.

Sur. Tis straunge that from his princely
clemencie,

So well a tempred mercie and a grace, 10

To all the aliens in this fruitfull land,

That this highe-creasted insolence should
spring

From them that breathe from his maiestick
bountie,

That, fatned with the trafficque of our coun-
trei,

Alreadie leape into his subiects face. 15

Pal. Yet Sherwin, hindred to commence his
suite

Against De Bard by the ambassadour,

By supplication made vnto the king,

Who hauing first entic'de away his wife,

And gott his plate, neere woorth foure hundred
pound, 20

To greeue some wronged cittizens that found

This vile disgrace oft cast into their teeth,

Of late sues Sherwin, and arrested him

For monie for the boording of his wife.

Sur. The more knaue Bard, that, vsing
Sherwins goods, 25

Dooth aske him interest for the occupation.

I like not that, my lord of Shrewesburie:

Hees ill bested that lends a well pac'de horsse

Vnto a man that will not finde him meate.

Cholme. My lord of Surrey will be pleasant
still. 30

Pal. I, beeing then employed by your honors

To stay the broyle that fell about the same,

Wber by perswasion I enforc'de the wrongs,

And vrgde the greefe of the displeased cittie,

He answerd me, and with a sollemne oathe, 35

That, if he had the Maior of Londons wife,

207 Bracketed words add. H Scene III. H 1 ff.
Beside these lines is written Mend y' (by Tynley)

He would keepe her in despite of any
Englishe.

Sur. Tis good, Sir Thomas, then, for you
and me;

Your wife is dead, and I a batcheler:

If no man can possesse his wife alone, 40

I am glad, Sir Thomas Palmer, I haue none.

Cholme. If a take my wife, a shall finde her
meate.

Sur. And reason good, Sir Roger Cholme-
ley, too.

If these hott Frenchemen needsly will haue
sporte,

They should in kindnesse yet deffraye the
charge: 45

Tis hard when men possesse our wiues in
quiet,

And yet leaue vs in, to discharge their diett.

Shrew. My lord, our catours shall not vse
the markett

For our prouision, but some straunger now

Will take the vittailles from him he hath bought:

A carpenter, as I was late enformde, 51

Who hauing bought a paire of dooues in
Cheape,

Immediately a Frencheman tooke them from
him,

And beat the poore man for resisting him;

And when the fellowe did complaine his wrongs,

He was seuerely punish'de for his labour. 56

Sur. But if the Englishe blood be once but
vp,

As I perceiue theire harts alreadie full,

I feare me much, before their spleenes be
coolede,

Some of these saucie aliens for their pride 60

Will pay for't soundly, wheresoere it lights:

This tyde of rage that with the eddie struiues,

I feare me much, will drowne too manie liues.

Cholme. Now, afore God, your honors,
pardon me:

Men of your place and greatnesse are to blame.

I tell ye true, my lords, in that his maiestie 66

Is not informed of this base abuse

And dayly wrongs are offered to his subiects;

For, if he were, I knowe his gracious wisdom

Would soone redresse it. 70

Enter a Messenger.

Shrew. Sirra, what newes?

Cholme. None good, I feare.

Mess. My lord, ill newes; and wurse, I
feare, will followe,

37 [Englishe] Tynley has deleted this word, substituting
man 49 straunger] Tynley has substituted Lombard
53 Frencheman] Lombard Tynley 57-63 Cross
marks on margin of MS. indicate Tynley's disapproval

If speedily it be not lookte vnto:
 The cittie is in an vproare, and the Maior 75
 Is threatned, if he come out of his house.
 A number poore artifi(cers) (are up
 In arms and threaten to avenge their wrongs.

Chol. We) fearde what this would come
 vnto:

This followes on the doctors publishing 80
 The bill of wrongs in publike at the Spittle.

Shrew. That Doctor Beale may chaunce
 beshrewe himselfe

For reading of the bill.

Pal. Let vs goe gather forces to the Maior,
 For quick suppressing this rebellious route. 85

Sur. Now I bethinke myselfe of Maister
 Moore,

One of the sheriffes, a wise and learned gentle-
 man,

And in especial fauour with the people:
 He, backt with other graue and sober men,
 May by his gentle and perswasive speeche 90
 Perhaps preuaile more then we can with
 power.

Shrew. Beleeue me, but your honor well
 aduises:

Let vs make haste; for I doo greatly feare
 Some to their graues this mornings woorke
 will beare. [Exeunt.]

(ACT II.

SCENE I.—Cheapside.)

*Enter three or foure Prentises of trades, with
 a paire of cudgelles.*

Harry. Come, lay downe the cudgelles.
 Hoh, Robin, you met vs well at Bunhill, to
 haue you with vs a Mayng this morning!

Robin. Faith, Harrie, the head drawer at
 the Miter by the great Conduite calld me vp,
 and we went to breakefast into St. Annes lane.
 But come, who begins? in good faith, I am
 cleane out of practise. When wast at Garrets
 schoole, Harrie? 9

Har. Not this great while, neuer since I
 brake his vsers head, when he plaid his
 schollers prize at the Starre in Bread-streete.
 I vse all to George Philpots at Dowgate; hees
 the best backswordeman in England. 14

Kit. Bate me an ace of that, quoth Bolton.

Har. Ile not bate ye a pinne on't, sir; for,
 by this cudgell, tis true.

Kit. I will cudgell that oppinion out of ye:
 did you breake an vsers head, sir?

Har. I, marie, did I, sir. 20

77 number of poor *H* artifi(cers) *Dyce* 77-9 are
 In arms. . We add, *H* 94 After this the *MS.* has the
 first sketch of Act II, Scene II, which was later elabo-
 rated Act II. etc. add, *H*

Kit. I am very glad on't: you shall breake
 mine too, and ye can.

Har. Sirra, I prethee, what art thou?

Kit. Why, I am a prentise as thou art;
 seest thou now? Ile play with thee at blunt
 heere in Cheapeside, and when thou hast
 doone, if thou beest angrie, Ile fight with thee
 at (sharpe) in Moore feildes. I haue a sword
 to serue my turne in a fauor . . .
 come Julie, to serue . . .

(SCENE II.—Saint Martins-le-Grand.)

Enter Lincolne, (two) Betsets, Williamson,
 Sherwin, and other, armed; Doll in a shirt
 of maile, a headpiece, sword, and buckler;
 a crewe attending.

Clo. Come, come; wele tickle ther turnips,
 wele butter ther boxes. Shall strangers rule
 the roste? yes; but wele baste the roste. Come,
 come; a flawnt, a flaunte!

George. Brother, giue place, and heare Iohn
 Lincolne speake. 6

Clo. I, Lincolne my leder,
 And Doll my true breder,
 With the rest of our cue,
 Shall ran tan tarra ran; 10
 Doo all they what they can.
 Shall we be bobd, braude? no:
 Shall we be helde vnder? no;
 We ar freborne,
 And doo take skorne 15
 To be vsde soe.

Doll. Pease theare, I saye! heare Captaine
 Lincolne speake; Kepe silens, till we know his
 minde at large. 19

Clo. Then largelye dilliuer; speake, bullie:
 and he that presumes to interrupte the in this
 orratione, this for him.

Lincol. Then, gallant bloods, you whooes
 fre sowles doo skorne

To beare the inforsd wrongs of aliens,
 Ad rage to ressolutione, fier the howses 25
 Of theis audatious strangers. This is St.

Martins,
 And yonder dwells Mutas, a welthy Piccardye,
 At the Greene Gate,
 De Bard, Peter Van Hollocke, Adrian Martine,
 With many more outlandishe fugetiues. 30
 Shall theis enioy more priueledge then wee
 In our owne cuntry? lets, then, become ther
 slaues.

28 sharpe add. *Dyce* 29-30 *MS.* illegible 30
 These lines are followed in *MS.* by the later draft of IV,
 r. 68 ff. See Appendix, p. 419-20 Scene II. etc. add,
 N S. D. from first sketch: omitted in revised version
 3 baste yt the roste *MS.* 27 Piccardie in first sketch
 of the scene 32 then] from first sketch: omitted in
 revised version

Since justis kepes not them in greater awe,
Wele be ourselues roughe ministers at lawe. 34

Clo. Vse no more swords, nor no more
words, but fier the houses; braue captaine
curragious, fier me ther houses.

Doll. I, for we maye as well make bonefiers
on Maye daye as at midsommer: wele alter
the daye in the callinder, and sett itt downe
in flaming letters. 41

Sher. Staye!
No, that wold much indanger the hole cittie,
Whertoo I wold not the least preiudice.

Doll. No, nor I nether; so maie mine owne
howse be burnd for companye. Ile tell ye
what; wele drag the strangers into More felde,
and theare bumbaste them till they stinke
again. 49

Clo. And thats soone doone; for they smell
for feare allredye.

Geor. Let some of vs enter the strangers
houses,

And, if we finde them theare, then bringe
them forthe.

Doll. But if ye bringe them forthe eare ye
finde them, Ile neare alowe of thatt. 55

Clo. Now, Marsse, for thie honner,
Dutch or Frenshe,
So yt be a wenshe,
Ile vppon hir. [Ex. some and Sher.

Willia. Now, lads, sure shall we labor in
our saffie. 60

I heare the Maire hath gatherd men in armes,
And that Shreue More an hower agoe risseude
Some of the Priuye Cowsell in at Ludgate:
Forse now must make our pease, or eles we
fall; 64

Twill soone be knowne we ar the principall.

Doll. And what of that? if thou beest
afraide, husband, go home againe, and hide
thy hed; for, by the Lord, Ile haue a lytill
sporte, now we ar att ytt.

Geor. Lets stand vppon our swards, and, if
they come, 70
Resseae them as they weare our ennemyes.

En. Sher. and the rest.

Clo. A purchase, a purchase! we haue
fownd, we ha fownde——

Doll. What? 74

Clo. Nothinge; nott a Frenshe Fleming nor

36-7 All. Fire the houses, fire the houses first
sketch 42-3 One line in MS. 43 No, that] that
first sketch 47 into] out into first sketch 54 But
if] If first sketch eare] before first sketch 56-9
Not in first sketch 59 S. D. from first sketch where it
follows 52 60 sure] how first sketch 69 we ar] I
am first sketch 70 swards] garde first sketch 71
S. D. from first sketch

a Fleming Frenshe to be fownde; but all fled,
in plaine Inglishe.

Linco. How now! haue you fownd any?

Sher. No, not one; theyre all fled.

Lincol. Then fier the houses, that, the
Maier beinge busye 80

About the quenshinge of them, we mayeskafe;
Burne downe ther kennells: let vs strait a waye,
Leaste this daye proue to vs an ill Maye daye.

Clo. Fier, fier! ile be the firste: 84

If hanging come, tis welcome; thats the worst. [exeunt.

(SCENE III.—The Guildhall.)

*Enter at on dore S(i)r Thomas Moore and Lord
Maire; att an other doore Sir Iohn
Munday hurt.*

L. Maior. What, Sir Iohn Munday, are
you hurt?

Sir Iohn. A little knock, my lord. Ther
was even now

A sort of prentises playing at cudgells;
I did comaund them to ther m(aisters')
howses;

But one of them, backt by the other crew, 5
Wounded me in the forehead with his cudgill;
And now, I feare me, they are gon to joine
With Lincolne, Sherwine, and ther dangerous
traine.

Moore. The captaines of this insurrection
Have tane themselves to armes, and cam but
now 10

To both the Counters, wher they haue releast
Sundrie indetted prisoners, and from thence
I heere that they are gonn into St. Martins,
Wher they intend to offer violence

To the amazed Lombards: therfore, my lord,
If we expect the saffie of the cittie, 16

Tis time that force or parley doe encownter
With thes displeased men.

Enter a Messenger.

L. Maior. How now! what newes?

Mess. My lord, the rebells haue broake
open Newegate, 20

From whence they haue deliuerd manie
prisoners,

Both fellons and notorious murderers,
That desperatie cleau to ther lawles traine.

L. Maior. Vpp with the drawbridge, gather
som forces

To Cornhill and Cheapside:—and, gentlemen,

79 No, not] Not first sketch theyre all] th are first
sketch 83 Least] Least that first sketch 84-5
Not in first sketch 85 exeunt first sketch : Manett
Clowne revised version, in different handwriting and
certainly wrong Scene III. etc. add. H.

If dilligence be vsde one every side, 26
A quiet ebb will follow this rough tide.

*Enter Shrowsberie, Surrie, Palmer,
Cholmley.*

Shro. Lord Maior, his maiestie, receauing
notice

Of this most dangerous insurrection,
Hath sent my lord of Surry and myself, 30
Sir Thomas Palmer and our followers,
To add vnto your forces our best meanes
For pacifying of this mutinie.
In Gods name, then, sett one with happie
speed!

The king laments, if one true subiect bleede.

Surr. I heere they meane to fier the
Lumbards howses: 36

Oh power, what art thou in a madmans eies!
Thou makst the plodding iddiott bloudy-wise.

Moore. My lords, I dowt not but we shall
appease

With a calm breath this flux of discontent: 40
To call them to a parley, questionles—

Palme. May fall out good: tis well said,
M(aiste)r Moore.

Moor. Letts to thes simple men; for many
sweat

Vnder this act, that knowes not the lawes
debt 44

Which hangs vpon ther lives; for sillie men
Plodd on they know not how, like a fooles penn,
That, ending, showes not any sentence writt,
Linckt but to common reason or sleightest
witt:

Thes follow for no harme; but yett incurr
Self penaltie with those that raisd this stirr. 50
A Gods name, one, to calme our priuat foes
With breath of gravitie, not dangerous blowes!
[*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE IV.—Saint Martin's Gate.)

*Enter Lincoln, Doll, Clown, Georg Betts,
Williamson, others; and a Sergaunt at
armes.*

Lincolne. Peace, heare me: he that will
not see a red hearing at a Herry grote, butter
at alevenpence a pounce, meale at nyne shil-
lings a bushell, and beeff at fower nobles
a stone, lyst to me. 5

Geo. Bett. Yt will come to that passe, yf
straingers be sufferd. Mark him.

Linco. Our countrie is a great eating coun-
try; argo, they eate more in our country then
they do in their owne. 10

32 your forces *Dyce:* our forces *MS.* 37 thou
Dyce: then *MS.* 43 thes *the Dyce* Scene IV.
etc. add. *H.*

Betts. Clow. By a halfpenny loff, a day,
troy waight.

Linc. They bring in straining rootes, which
is meerly to the vndoing of poor prentizes;
for whats a sorry parsnypp to a good hart? 15

William. Trash, trash; they breed sore
eyes, and tis enough to infect the cytty with
the palsey.

Lin. Nay, yt has infected yt with the
palsey; for these basterds of dung, as you
knowe they growe in dung, haue infected vs,
and yt is our infeccion will make the cytty
shake, which partly coms through the eating
of parsnypps. 24

Clown. Betts. Trewe; and pumpions
together.

Seriant. What say ye to the mercy of the
king?

Do ye refuse yt? 28

Lin. You would haue vs vpon thipp, would
you? no, marry, do we not; we accept of the
kings mercy, but wee will shoue no mercy
vpon the straungers. 32

Seriaunt. You are the simplest things that
euer stood

In such a question.

Lin. How say ye now, prentisses? pren-
tisses symple! downe with him! 36

All. Prentisses symple! prentisses symple!

*Enter the L. Maier, Surrey, Shrewsbury,
(More.)*

Maior. Hold! in the kinges name, hold!

Surrey. Frendes, masters, countrymen—

Mayer. Peace, how, peace! I charg you,
keep the peace! 40

Shro. My maisters, countrymen—

Williamson. The noble earle of Shrows-
bury, letts hear him.

Ge. Betts. Weele heare the earle of Surrey.

Linc. The earle of Shrewsbury. 45

Betts. Weele heare both.

All. Both, both, both, both!

Linc. Peace, I say, peace! ar you men of
wisdome, or what ar you?

Surr. What you will haue them; but not
men of wisdome. 51

All. Weele not heare my lord of Surrey; no,
no, no, no, no! Shrewsbury, Shrewsbury!

Moor. Whiles they ar ore the banck of
their obedyence,

Thus will they bere downe all things. 55

Linc. Shreiff Moor speakes: shall we heare
Shreiff Moor speake?

Doll. Letts heare him: a keepes a plenty-

37 *S. D.* More add. *pr. ed.:* Palmer, Cholmeley, and
More add. *H.*

full shreualtry, and a made my brother Arther
Watchins Seriant Safes yeoman: lets heare
Shreeue Moore. 61

All. Shreiuë Moor, Moor, More, Shreue
Moor!

Moor. Even by the rule you haue among
yoursealues,
Comand still audience. 65

All. Surrey, Sury!

All. Moor, Moor!

Lincolne. } Peace, peace, scilens, peace.
Betts. }

Moor. You that haue voyce and credyt with
the number,
Comaund them to a stilnes. 70

Lincolne. A plaigue on them, they will not
hold their peace; the deule cannot rule them.

Moore. Then what a rough and ryotous
charge haue you,

To leade those that the deule cannot rule?—
Good masters, heare me speake. 75

Doll. I, byth mas, will we, Moor: thart a
good howskeeper, and I thanck thy good
worship for my brother Arthur Watchins.

All. Peace, peace.

Moor. Look, what you do offend you cry
vppon, 80

That is, the peace: not (one) of you heare
present,

Had there such fellowes lyvd when you wer
babes,

That could haue topt the peace, as nowe you
would,

The peace wherin you haue till nowe growne vp
Had bin tane from you, and the bloody tymes
Could not haue brought you to the state of
men. 86

Alas, poor things, what is yt you haue gott,
Although we graunt you geat the thing you
seeke?

Bett. Marry, the remouing of the straingers,
which cannot choose but much aduantage
the poor handycrafts of the cytty. 91

Moor. Graunt them remoued, and graunt
that this your noyce

Hath chidd downe all the maiestie of England;
Ymagin that you see the wretched straingers,
Their babyes at their backes and their poor
luggage, 95

Plodding tooth ports and costes for transpor-
tation,

And that you sytt as kinges in your desyres,
Aucthority quyte sylent by your braule,
And you in ruff of your opynions clothd;

What had you gott? I'le tell you: you had
taught 100

How insolence and strong hand shoold pre-
uayle,

How ordere shoold be quelld; and by this
patterne

Not on of you shoold lyue an aged man,
For other ruffians, as their fancies wrought,
With sealf same hand, sealf reasons, and sealf
right, 105

Woold shark on you, and men lyke rauenous
fishes

Woold feed on on another.

Doll. Before God, thats as trewe as the
Gospel.

Lincoln. Nay, this (is) a sound fellowe, I
tell you: lets mark him. 111

Moor. Let me sett vp before your thoughts,
good freindes,

On supposition; which if you will marke,
You shall perceauë howe horrible a shape
Your ynnouation beres: first, tis a sinn 115

Which oft thappostle did forwarne vs of,
Vrging obedience to authority;

And twere no error, yf I told you all,
You wer in armes gainst your (God himself)

All. Marry, God forbid that! 120

Moo. Nay, certainly you are;
For to the king God hath his offyce lent

Of dread, of justyce, power and comaund,
Hath bid him rule, and willd you to obay;

And, to add ampler maiestie to this, 125

He hath not only lent the king his figure,
His throne and sword, but gyuen him his
owne name,

Calls him a god on earth. What do you, then,
Rysing gainst him that God himself enstalls,

Butrysegainst God? what do you to your sowles
In doing this? O, desperat as you are, 131

Wash your foule mynds with teares, and those
same handes,

That you lyke rebells lyft against the peace,
Lift vp for peace, and your vnreuerent knees,

Make them your feet to kneele to be forgyuen!
Tell me but this; what rebell captaine, 136

As mutynies ar incident, by his name
Can still the rout? who will obay a traytor?

Or howe can well that proclamation sounde,
When ther is no adicion but a rebell 140

To quallyfy a rebell? Youle put downe
straingers,

Kill them, cutt their throts, possesse their
howses,

And leade the ma(ies)tie of lawe in liom,

81 one H: MS. illegible 83 topt] kept Spedding.
The word is indistinct, but Dr. Furnivall and Mr.
Herbert of the British Museum favour Dyce's reading.

111 is add. Dyce 119 God himself conj. Spedding:
sovereign Dyce 135-6 Deletion in MS. Cf. Intro-
duction. 138 Deletion after obay in MS.

Toslipp him lyke a hound. Say nows the king
(As he is clement, yf thoffendor moorne) 145
Shoold so much com to short of your great
trespas

As but to please you, whether woold you go?
What country, by the nature of your error,
Shoold geue you harber? go you to Fraunce or
Flandre, 149

To any Jarman prouince, to Spaineor Portigall,
Nay, any where that not adheres to England,—
Why, you must needes be straingers: woold
you be pleasd

To find a nation of such barbarous temper,
That, breaking out in hiddious violence,
Woold not afoord you an abode on earth, 155
Whett their detested knyues against your
throtes,

Spurne you lyke dogges, and lyke as yf that God
Owed not nor made not you, nor that the
elamentes

Wer not all appropriat to your comfortes,
But chartered vnto them, what woold you
thinck 160

To be thus vsd? this is the straingers case;
And this your momtanish inhumanyte.

All. Fayth, a saies trewe: letts do as we
may be doon by. 164

Linco. Weele be ruld by you, Maister Moor,
yf youle stand our freind to procure our
pardon.

Moor. Submyt you to theise noble gentle-
men,

Entreate their mediation to the kinge,
Geue vp yoursealfe to forme, obay the maies-
trate, 170

And thers no doubt but mercy maie be found,
Yf you so seek.

To persist in it is present death: but, if you
yeeld yourselues, no doubt what punishment
you in simplicitie haue incurred, his highnesse
in mercie will moste graciously pardon. 176

All. We yeeld, and desire his highnesse
mercie. [They lay by their weapons.

Moore. No doubt his maiestie will graunt
it you: 179

But you must yeeld to goe to seuerall prisons,
Till that his highnesse will be further knowne.

All. Moste willingly; whether you will
haue vs.

Shrew. Lord Maior, let them be sent to
seuerall prisons, 184

And there, in any case, be well intreated.—

144 Deletion after bound in MS. 151 Deletion after
where in MS. 159 all] alike conj. Spedding Del-
tion after to in MS. 162 momtanish] mountainish
Dyce 173 With this line the handwriting of MS.
changes

My lord of Surrie, please you to take horsse,
And ride to Cheapeside, where the aldermen
Are with their seuerall companies in armes;
Will them to goe vnto their seuerall wardes,
Bothe for the stay of further mutinie, 190
And for the apprehending of such persons
As shall contend.

Sur. I goe, my noble lord. [Ex. Sur.
Shrew. Weele straite goe tell his highnesse
these good newes;

Withall, Shreewe Moore, Ile tell him how your
breath 195

Hath ransomde many a subiect from sad death.
[Ex. Shrew. and Cholm.

L. Maior. Lincolne and Sherwine, you
shall bothe to Newgate;

The rest vnto the Counters.

Pal. Goe garde them hence: a little breath
well spent

Cheates expectation in his fairst euent. 200

Doll. Well, Sheriffe Moore, thou hast doone
more with thy good woordes then all they
could with their weapons: giue me thy hand;
keepe thy promise now for the kings pardon,
or, by the Lord, Ile call thee a plaine conie-
catcher. 206

Lin. Farewell, Shreewe Moore; and as we
yeeld by thee,

So make our peace; then thou dealst honestly.

Clo. Ay, and saue vs from the gallows,
eles a deules debble honnestlye! 210

[They are led away.

L. Maior. Maister Shreewe Moore, you haue
preseru'de the cittie

From a moste daungerous fierce commotion;
For, if this limbe of riot heere in St. Martins
Had ioind with other braunches of the cittie
That did begin to kindle, twould haue bred
Great rage; that rage much murder woold
haue fed. 216

Not steele, but eloquence hath wrought this
good:

You haue redeemde vs from much threatned
blood.

Moore. My lord and bretheren, what I heere
haue spoke, 219

My countries loue, and next the citties care,
Enioynde me to; which since it thus preuailes,
Thinke, God hath made weake Moore his
instrument

To thwart seditions violent intent.

I thinke twere best, my lord, some two houres
hence

We meete at the Guildehall, and there deter-
mine 225

That thorow euery warde the watche be clad

209-10 Add. in different hand on margin of MS.

In armour, but especially prouide
That at the cittie gates selected men,
Substantiall cittizens, doo warde to night,
For feare of further mischeife. 230
L. Maior. It shall be so:
But yond me thinks my lord of Shrewesburie.

Ent. Shrew.

Shrew. My lord, his maiestie sends loouing
thankes
To you, your bretheren, and his faithfull
subiects,
Your carefull cittizens.—But, M(aiste)r Moore,
to you 235
A rougher, yet as kinde, a salutation:
Your name is yet too short; nay, you must
kneele;
A knights creation is thys knightly steele.
Rise vp, Sir Thomas Moore.

Moore. I thanke his highnesse for thus
honoring me. 240

Shrew. This is but first taste of his princely
faour;

For it hath pleased his high maiestie
(Noating your wisdomes and deseruing meritt)
To put this staffe of honor in your hand, 244
For he hath chose you of his Priuie Councill.

Moore. My lord, for to denye my soue-
raignes bountie

Were to drop precious stones into the heapes
Whence first they came;

To vrde my imperfections in excuse, 249

Were all as stale as custome: no, my lord,
My seruice is my kings; good reason why,—
Since life or death hangs on our soueraignes
eye.

L. Maior. His maiestie hath honord much
the cittie

In this his princely choise.

Moore. My lord and bretheren, 255
Though I departe for (court) my loue shall
rest

(With you, as heretofore, a faithful guest.)
I now must sleepe in courte, sounde sleepes
forbeare;

The chamberlain to state is publique care:
Yet, in this rising of my priuate blood, 260
My studious thoughts shall tend the citties
good.

Ent. Croftes.

Shrew. How now, Croftes! what newes?
Croftes. My lord, his highnesse sends
expresse commaunde
That a record be entred of this riott, 264
And that the cheefe and capitall offendours

Be theron straite arraignde, for himselfe
intends

To sit in person on the rest to morrowe
At Westminster.

Shrew. Lord Maior, you heare your charge.—
Come, good Sir Thomas Moore, to court let's
hye; 270

You are th' appeaser of this mutinie.

Moore. My lord, farewell: new dayes begets
new tides;

Life whirles bout fate, then to a graue it
slydes. [Exeunt seuerally]

(ACT III.

SCENE I.—Cheapside.)

Enter M(aiste)r Sheriffe, and meete a Messenger.

Sheriff. Messenger, what newes?

Mess. Is execution yet performde?

Sheriff. Not yet; the cartes stand readie at
the stayres,

And they shall presently away to Tibourne.

Messe. Stay, M(aiste)r Shreewe; it is the
counnelles pleasure, 5

For more example in so bad a case,

A jibbit be erected in Cheapside,

Hard by the Standard; whether you must
bring

Lincolne and those that were the cheefe with
him, [Ent. Officers.

To suffer death, and that immediatly. 10

Sheriff. It shalbe doone, sir [Ex. Mess.].

—Officers, be speedie;

Call for a jibbit, see it be erected;

Others make haste to Newgate, bid them bring
The prisoners hether, for they here must dye:

Away, I say, and see no time be slackt. 15

Off. We goe, sir.

[Ex. some seuerally; others set vp the
jibbit.

Sheriff. Thats well said, fellowes; now
you doo your dutie.—

God for his pittie help these troublous times!

The streetes stopte vp with gazing multitudes:
Commaund our armed officers with halberds

Make way for entraunce of the prisoners; 21

Let proclamation once againe be made,

That euery housholder, on paine of deathe,

Keep in his prentises, and euery man

Stand with a weapon readie at his doore, 25

As he will answer to the contrary.

Off. Ile see it doone, sir. [Exit.

Enter another Officer.

Sheriffe. Bring them away to execution:

The writt is come aboue two houres since;

The cittie will be fynde for this neglect. 30

Act III. etc. add. H

Off. Thers such a presse and multitude at Newgate,
They cannot bring the cartes onto the stayres,
To take the prisoners in.

Sheriff. Then let them come on foote;
We may not dally time with great commaund.

Off. Some of the benche, sir, thinke it very fit 36

That stay be made, and giue it out abroade
The execution is deferd till morning,
And, when the streetes shall be a little cleerd,
To chaine them vp, and suddenly dispatch it.

Sheriff. Stay; in meane time me thinkes they come along: 41

See, they are comming. So, tis very well:

The prisoners are brought in, well guarded.

Bring Lincolne there the first vnto the tree.

Clo. I, for I cry lug, sir.

Lin. I knewe the first, sir, did belong to me:
This the olde prouerbe now compleate dooth make, 46

That Lincolne should be hangd for Londons sake. [*He goes vp.*]

A Gods name, let vs to woorke. Fellowe, dispatche:

I was the formoste man in this rebellion,
And I the formoste that must dye for it. 50

Doll. Brauely, Iohn Lincolne, let thy death expresse,

That, as thou liu'dst a man, thou dyedst no lesse.

Lin. Doll Williamson, thine eyes shall witness it.—

Then to all you that come to viewe mine end
I must confesse, I had no ill intent, 55

But against such as wrongd vs ouer much:
And now I can perceiue it was not fit

That priuate men should carue out their redresse,

Which way they list; no, learne it now by me,—
Obedience is the best in eche degree: 60

And asking mercie meekely of my king,
I patiently submit me to the lawe;

But God forgiue them that were cause of it!
And, as a Christian, truely from my hart

I likewise craue they would forgiue me too 65
(As freely as I do forgiue their wrong)

That others by example of the same
Hencefoorth be warned to attempt the like

Gainst any alien that repaireth hether. 69
Fare ye well, all: the next time that we meete,

I trust in heauen we shall eche other greete.
[*He leapes off.*]

44 Add. in different hand on margin of MS. 66
Add. H: MS. illegible 68 warned to] warned not
to H

Doll. Farewell, Iohn Lincolne: say all what they can,

Thou liu'dst a good fellowe, and dyedst an honest man.

Clo. Wold I weare so farre on my jurney!
the first stretch is the werste, me thinks. 75

Sheriff. Bring Williamson there forward.

Doll. Good M(aiste)r Shreeue, I haue an earnest suite,

And, as you are a man, deny't me not!
Sheriff. Woman, what is it? be it in my power,

Thou shalt obtayne it. 80

Doll. Let me dye next, sir; that is all I craue:
You knowe not what a comforte you shall bring

To my poore hart, to dye before my husband.
Sheriff. Bring her to death; she shall haue

her desire. 85

Clo. Sir, and I haue a suite to you too.

Sher. What is ytt?

Clo. That, as you haue hangd Lincolne first, and will hange hir nexte, so you will not hange me at all. 90

Sher. Naye, you set ope the Counter gates, and you must hange (for) the foly.

Clo. Well, then, so much for it!

Doll. Sir, your free bountie much contents my minde.

Commend me to that good shreeue M(aiste)r Moore, 95

And tell him, had't not bin for his perswasion,
Iohn Lincolne had not hung heere as he does:

We would first haue lockt (vs) vp in Leaden-hall,

And there bin burnt to ashes with the rooffe.

Sheriff. Woman, what Master Moore did was a subiects dutie, 100

And hath so pleasse our gracious lord the king,
That he is hence remou'de to higher place,
And made of counsell to his maiestie.

Doll. Well is he woorthie of it, by my troth,
An honest, wise, well spoken gentleman; 105

Yet would I praise his honestie much more,
If he had kept his woord, and sau'de our liues:

But let that passe; men are but men, and so
Words are but wordes, and paies not what

men owe.— 109

You, husband, since perhaps the world may say
That through my meanes thou comste thus to thy end,

Heere I beginne this cuppe of death to thee,
Because thou shalt be sure to taste no wursse

Then I haue taken that must goe before thee.
What though I be a woman? thats no matter;

I doo owe God a death, and I must pay him.

92 for add. Dyce 98 haue lockt vs pr. ed.: haue
bin lockt Dyce: haue lockt MS.

Husband, giue me thy hand; be not dismayed;
This charre beeing charde, then all our debt
is payd. 118

Only two little babes we leaue behinde vs,
And all I can bequeathe them at this time
Is but the looue of some good honest freend,
To bring them vp in charitable sorte:

What, maisters! he goes vpriht that neuer
haltes,

And they may liue to mend their parents
faultes.

Will. Why, well sayd, wife; yfaith, thou
cheerst my hart: 125

Giue me thy hand; lets kisse, and so lets part.
[He kisses her on the ladder.]

Doll. The next kisse, Williamson, shalbe
in heauen.—

Now cheerely, lads! George Bets, a hand with
thee;

And thine too, Rafe; and thine, good honest
Sherwin.

Now let me tell the women of this towne, 130
No straunger yet brought Doll to lying downe:
So long as I an Englishman can see,
Nor Frenche nor Dutche shall get a kisse of
me;

And when that I am dead, for me yet say,
I dyed in scorne to be a straungers preye. 135
[A great shout and noise.]

(Cry) within. Pardon, pardon, pardon,
pardon!

Roome for the Erle of Surrey, roome there,
roome!

Enter Surrey.

Sur. Saue the mans life, if it be possible.

Sheriff. It is too late, my lord; hees dead
alreadie.

Sur. I tell ye, M(aiste)r Sheriffe, you are
too forwarde, 140

To make such haste with men vnto their death;
I thinke your paines will merit little thankses,
Since that his highnesse is so mercifull
As not to spill the blood of any subiect.

Sheriff. My noble lord, would we so much
had knowen! 145

The Councelles warrant hastened our dis-
patche;

It had not else bin doone so suddenly.

Sur. Sir Thomas Moore humbly vppon his
knee

Did begge the liues of all, since on his woord
They did so gently yeeld: the king hath
graunted it, 150

And made him Lord High Chauncellour of
England,

137 S. D. follows 135 in MS.

According as he woorthily deserues.

Since Lincolnes life cannot be had againe,
Then for the rest, from my dread soueraignes
lippes, 154

I heere pronounce free pardon for them all.

All. God saue the king, God saue the king!
My good Lord Chauncellour, and the Earle of
Surrey! [Flinging vp cappes.]

Doll. And Doll desires it from her very hart,
Moores name may liue for this right noble
part;

And whensoere we talke of ill May daie, 160
Praise Moore

Sur. In hope his highnesse clemencie and
mercie,

Which in the armes of milde and meeke com-
passion

Would rather clip you, as the loouing nurse
Oft dooth the waywarde infant, then to leaue
you 165

To the sharp rodd of justice, so to drawe you
To shun such lewde assemblies as beget
Vnlawfull riots and such trayterous acts,
That, striking with the hand of priuate hate,
Maime your deare countrie with a publike
wounde:— 170

Oh God, that Mercie, whose maiestick browe
Should be vnwrinkled, and that awefull
Justice,

Which looketh through a vaile of sufferaunce
Vppon the frailtie of the multitude,
Should with the clamours of outragious
wrongs 175

Be stird and wakened thus to punishment!—
But your deserued death he dooth forgiue:

Who giues you life, pray all he long may liue.

All. God saue the king, God saue the king!
My good Lord Chauncellour, and the Earle of
Surrey! [Exeunt.]

(SCENE II.—Chelsea. A Room in More's
House.)

A table beeing couered with a greene carpet,
a state cushion on it, and the Purse and
Mace lying thereon, enter Sir Thomas
Moore.

Moore. It is in Heauen that I am thus and
thus;

And that which we prophanlie terme our
fortuns

Is the provision of the power aboue,
Fitted and shapte just to that strength of
nature

Which we are borne (withal). Good God, good
God, 5

161 End of line illegible
5 withal add. Dyce

Scene II, etc. add. H

That I from such an humble bench of birth
Should stepp as twere vp to my countries head,
And give the law out ther! I, in my fathers
life,

To take prerogative and tyth of knees
From elder kinsmen, and him bynd by my
place 10

To give the smooth and dexter way to me
That owe it him by nature! Sure, thes things,
Not phisickt by respecte, might turne our bloud
To much corruption: but, Moore, the more
thou hast,

Ether of honor, office, wealth, and calling, 15
Which might accite thee to embrace and hugg
them,

The more doe thou in serpents natures thinke
them;

Feare ther gay skinns with thought of ther
sharpe state;

And lett this be thy maxime, to be greate
Is when the thred of hayday is once spoun, 20
A bottom great woond vpp greatly vndonn.—
Com on, sir: are you redy?

(Enter Randall, attyred like Sir Thomas
Moore.)

Randall. Yes, my lord, I stand but one a few
points; I shall have donn presentlie. Before
God, I have practised your lordshippis shift so
well, that I thinke I shall grow prowd, my lord.

Moore. Tis fitt thou shouldst wax prowd,
or ells thoult nere 27

Be neere allied to greatnes. Observe me, sirra.
The learned clarke Erasmus is arived

Within our English court: last night I heere
He feasted with our honord English poet, 31

The Earle of Surrey; and I learnd to day
The famous clarke of Rotherdam will visett

Sir Thomas Moore. Therefore, sir, take my
seate;

You are Lord Chauncelor: dress your behaviour
According to my carriage; but beware 36

You talke not over much, for twill betray thee:
Who prates not much seemes wise; his witt
few scan;

While the tongue blabs tales of the imperfitt
man.

Ile see if greate Erasmus can distinguishe 40
Meritt and outward cerimony.

Rand. If I doe not deserve a share for play-
ing of your lordship well, lett me be yeoman
vs her to your sumpter, and be banisht from
wearing of a gold chaine for ever. 45

Moore. Well, sir, Ile hide our motion: act
my part

16 Short word deleted after might in MS. 23 ff.
For first draft of this passage see Appendix p. 418

With a firme boldnes, and thou winst my
hart.

Enter the Shreive, with Fawkner a ruffin,
and Officers.

How now! whats the matter? 48

Faulk. Tugg me not, Ime noe beare.
Sbloud, if all the doggs in Paris Garden hung
at my tale, Ide shake em of with this, that Ile
appeere before noe king cristned but my good
Lord Chauncelor.

Shre. Weele cristen you, sirra.—Bring him
forward. 55

Moore. How now! what tumults make you?

Falk. The azurde heavens protect my noble
Lord Chauncelor!

Moore. What fellowes this?

Shre. A ruffian, my lord, that hath sett
half the cittie in an vpproe. 61

Falk. My lord—

Shre. Ther was a fray in Paternoster-row,
and because they would not be parted, the street
was choakt vpp with carts. 65

Faulk. My noble lord, Paniar Allies throat
was open.

Moore. Sirra, hold your peace.

Faulk. Ile prove the street was not choakt,
but is as well as ever it was since it was a
streete. 71

Shreu. This fellow was a principall broacher
of the broile.

Fawk. Sbloud, I brocht none; it was
broacht and half ronned out, before I had a lick
at it. 76

Shre. And would be brought before noe
justice but your honor.

Faulk. I am haild, my noble lord.

Moore. No eare to choose for every triviall
noice 80

But mine, and in so full a time? Away!
You wronge me, M(aiste)r Shreve: dispose of
him

At your owne plesure; send the knave to New-
gate.

Faulk. To Newgate! sbloud, Sir Thomas
Moore, I appeale, I appeale from Newgate to
any of the two worshippfull Counters. 86

Moore. Fellow, whose man are you, that
are thus lustie?

Faulk. My names Jack Fawkner; I serve,
next vnder God and my prince, M(aister)
Morris, secretary to my Lord of Winchester.

Moore. A fellow of your haire is very fitt
To be a secretaries follower! 92

Faulk. I hope so, my lord. The fray was

84 Sbloud deleted in MS. before To 91 ff. For first
draft of this passage see Appendix pp. 418-9

betweene the Bishoppes men of Eelie and Winchester; and I could not in honor but parte them. I thought it stood not with my reputation and degree to com to my questions and aunswers before a citty justice: I knew I should to the pott.

Moore. Thou hast byn ther, it seemes, to late allredie. 101

Fauk. I know your honor is wise and so forth; and I desire to be only cattachizd or examind by you, my noble Lord Chauncelor.

Moore. Sirra, sirra, you are a busie dangerous ruffian. 105

Fauk. Ruffian!

Moore. How long have you worne this haire?

Fauk. I have worne this haire ever since I was borne.

Moore. You know thats not my question, but how long 110

Hath this shagg fleece hung dangling on thy head?

Fauke. How long, my lord! why, somtimes thus long, somtimes lowere, as the Fates and humors please.

Moore. So quicke, sir, with me, ha? I see, good fellow, 115

Thou lovest plaine dealing. Sirra, tell me now,

When were you last at barbars? how longe time

Have you vpon your head woorne this shagg haire? 118

Fauke. My lord, Jack Faukner tells noe Esops fables: troth, I was not at barbars this three yeires; I have not byn cutt nor will not be cutt, vpon a foolish vow, which, as the Destanies shall dereet, I am sworne to keepe.

Moore. When comes that vow out? 124

Fauk. Why, when the humors are purgd, not theis three yeares.

Moore. Vowes are recorded in the court of Heaven,

For they are holly acts. Yong man, I charge thee

And doe advize thee, start not from that vow:

And, for I will be sure thou shalt not shreve, Besides, because it is an odious sight 131

To see a man thus hairie, thou shalt lie

In Newgate till thy vow and thy three yeares Be full expired.—Away with him!

Fauke. My lord—— 135

Moor. Cut of this fleece, and lie ther but a moneth.

Fauk. Ile not loose a haire to be Lord Chauncelor of Europe.

Moore. To Newgate, then. Sirra, great sinns are brede

In all that body wher thers a foule head. 140
Away with him. [*Exeunt (all except Randall.)*]

Enter Surry, Erasmus, and Attendants.

Surry. Now, great Erasmus, you approch the presence

Of a most worthy learned gentleman:

This little ile holds not a trewer frend Vnto the arts; nor doth his greatnes add 145

A fained florish to his worthie parts;

Hees great in studie; thats the statists grace, That gaines more reverence then the outward place.

Erasmus. Report, my lord, hath crost the narrow seas,

And to the severall parts of Christendom 150

Hath borne the fame of your LordChauncelor:

I long to see him, whom with loving thoughts I in my studie oft have visited.

Is that Sir Thomas Moore?

Surry. It is, Erasmus: 155

Now shall you view the honorablest scholler,

The most religious pollitian,

The worthiest counsailor that tends our state.

That study is the generall watch of England;

In it the princes saftie, and the peace 160
That shines vpon our comonwealth, are

forgd

By loiall industrie.

Erasmus. I dowt him not

To be as neere the life of excellence

As you proclaime him, when his meanest ser-
vaunts 165

Are of some waight: you saw, my lord, his
porter

Give entertainment to vs at the gate

In Latten good phrase; whats the m(aiste)r,
then,

When such good parts shine in his meanest
men?

Surry. His Lo(rdship) hath som waightie
busines; 170

For, see, as yett he takes noe notice of vs.

Erasmus. I thinke twere best I did my
dutie to him

In a short Latin speech.—

*Qui in celiberima patria natus est ett gloriosa,
plus habet negotii ut in lucem veniat quam
qui— 176*

Rand. I prythee, good Erasmus, be covered.
I have forsworne speaking of Lattin, (else), as
I am true counsailor, Ide tickle you with

175 ut Dyce: et MS.

178 else add. Dyce

110-11 Written as prose in MS. 115-18 Prose in MS.
130 shreve] swerve conj. Dyce: shrive H

a speech. Nay, sitt, Erasmus;—sitt, good my Lord of Surry. Ile make my lady com to you anon, if she will, and give you entertainment.

Erasmus. Is this Sir Thomas Moore? 183

Surry. Oh good Erasmus, you must conceave his vaine:

Hees ever furnisht with thes conceits.

Rand. Yes, faith, my learned poet doth not lie for that matter: I am nether more nor less then mery Sir Thomas allwaies. Wilt supp with me? by God, I love a parlous wise fellow that smells of a pollititian better then a long progress. 191

Enter Sir Thomas Moore.

Surry. We are deluded; this is not his lordshipp.

Rand. I pray you, Erasmus, how longe will the Holland cheese in your countrie keepe without maggetts? 195

Moore. Foole, painted barbarisme, retire thyself

Into thy first creation! (*Exit Randal*).—Thus you see,

My loving learned frends, how far respecte Waites often on the cerimonious traine 199
Of base illitterat welth, whilst men of schooles, Shrowded in povertie, are counted fooles.

Pardon, thou reverent Germaine, I have mixt So slight a jest to the faire entertainment 203
Of thy most worthy self; for know, Erasmus, Mirth wrinckls vpp my face, and I still crave, When that forsakes me I may hugg my grave.

Erasmus. Your honers mery humor is best phisick

Vnto your able boddy; for we learne Wher mellancholly choaks the passages 209
Of bloud and breth, the erected spirit still Lengthens our dayes with sportfull exercise: Studie should be the saddest time of life, The rest a sport exempt from thought of strife.

Moore. Erasmus preacheth gossell against phisicke,

My noble poet. 215

Surry. Oh, my Lord, you tax me

In that word poet of much idlenes: It is a studie that makes poore our fate; Poets were ever thought vnfit for state.

Moore. O, give not vp faire poisie, sweet lord, 220

To such contempt! That I may speake my hart,

It is the sweetest heraldrie of art,

That settis a difference twene the tough sharpe holly

And tender bay tree.

Surry. Yett, my lord, 225

It is become the very logic number To all mechanick sciences.

Moore. Why, Ile show the reason:

This is noe age for poets; they should sing To the lowd canon *heroica facta*; 230
Qui faciunt reges heroica carmina laudant: And, as great subiects of their pen decay, Even so vnphisickt they doe melt away.

Enter M(aiste)r Morris.

Com, will your lordshipp in?—My deere Erasmus— 234

Ile heere you, M(aiste)r Moris, presentlie.— My lord, I make you m(aiste)r of my howse: Weele banquet heere with fresh and staid delights,

The Muses musick heer shall cheere our sprites;

The cates must be but meane wher scollers sitt, For thar made all with courses of neate witt. (*Exeunt Surry, Erasmus, and Attendants.*)

How now, M(aiste)r Morris? 241

Moriss. I am a suter to your lordshipp in behalf of a servaunt of mine.

Moore. The fellow with long haire? good

M(aister) Moris,

Com to me three years hence, and then Ile heere you. 245

Moris. I understand your honor: but the foolish knave has submitted himself to the mercy of a barber, and is without, redy to make a new vow before your lordshipp, heer- after to leve cavell. 250

Moore. Nay, then, letts talke with him: pray, call him in.

Enter Faulkner and Officers.

Fauk. Bless your honor! a new man, my lord.

Moore. Why, sure, this (is) not he. 254

Fauk. And your lordshipp will, the barber shall give you a sample of my head: I am he in faith, my lord; I am *ipse*.

Moore. Why, now thy face is like an honest mans:

Thou hast plaid well at this new cutt, and wonn. 259

Fauk. No, my lord; lost all that ever God sent me.

Moore. God sent thee into the world as thou art now,

207-8 Beside these lines on the margin of MS. is written et tu Erasmus an Diabolus 216 noble deleted in MS. before Lord

254 is add. Dyce 255 Word deleted in MS. after will 260 god deleted before ever in MS.

With a short haire. How quickly are three years

Ronn out in Newgate! 264

Fauk. I think so, my lord; for ther was but a hairens length betweene my going thether and so long time.

Moor. Because I see som grace in thee, goe free.—

Discharge him, fellowes.—Farewell, Master Moris.— 269

Thy head is for thy shoulders now more fitt; Thou hast less haire vpon it, but more witt.

[*Exit.*]

Moris. Did not I tell thee allwaies of thes lockes? 273

Fauk. And the lockes were on againe, all the goldsmiths in Cheapside should not pick them open. Shart, if my haire stand not an end when I looke for my face in a glass, I am a polecatt. Heers a lowsie jest! but, if I notch not that rogue Tom barbar, that makes me looke thus like a Brownist, hange me! Ile be worss to the nitticall knave then ten tooth drawings. Heers a head, with a pox! 282

Morr. What ails thou? art thou mad now?

Fauk. Mad now! nayles, yf losse of hayre cannot nadd a man, what can? I am deposite, my crowne is taken from me. Moore had bin better a scowred Moreditch than a notch me thus: does hee begin sheepesharing with Jack Faulkner? 289

Morr. Nay, and you feede this veyne, sir, fare you well.

Falk. Why, farewell, frost. Ile goe hang myselfe out for the Poll Head. Make a Sarcen of Jack?

Morr. Thou desperate knave! for that I see the divell 295

Wholy getts hold of thee——

Falk. The divells a dambd rascall.

Morr. I charge thee, wayte on mee no more; no more

Call mee thy M(aiste)r. 299

Falk. Why, then, a word, M(aiste)r Morris.

Morr. Ile heare no wordes, sir; fare you well.

Falk. Sbloud, farewell.

Morr. Why doest thou follow mee? 304

Falk. Because Ime an asse. Doe you sett your shavers vpon me, and then cast mee off? must I condole? haue the Fates playd the foolos? am I theire cutt? now the poore sconce is taken, must Jack march with bag and baggage? [Weapes.]

283 With this line a new handwriting begins in MS.
293 for the MS.: of the Dyce 304 Deletion in MS.
after follow

Morr. You coxcomb! 311

Falk. Nay, you ha poacht mee; you ha given mee a hayre; its here, heare.

Morr. Away, you kynd asse! come, sir, dry your eyes: 314

Keepe your old place, and mend theis fooleryes.

Falk. I care not to bee tournd off, and twere a ladder, so it bee in my humor, or the Fates becon to mee. Nay, pray, sir, yf the Destinyes spin mee a fyne thred, Falkner flyes another pitch; and to avoyd the headach hereafter, before Ile bee a hayremonger, Ile bee a whoremonger. [*Exeunt.*]

(SCENE III.—Chelsea. Ante-chamber in More's House.)

Enter a Messenger to Moore.

Mess. (T. Goedal). My honorable lord, the Maior of London,

Accompanied with his lady and her traine, Are coming hether, and are hard at hand, To feast with you: a seriaunts come before, To tell your lordshipp of ther neer aproche. 5
Moore. Why, this is cheerfull newes: frends goe and come:

Reverend Erasmus, whose delitious words Express the very soule and life of witt, Newlie toke sad leave of me, (and) with teares Trubled the sillver channell of the Themes, 10 Which, glad of such a burden, prowldie sweld And one her bosom bore him toward the sea: Hees gon to Rotterdam; peace goe with him! He left me heavy when he went from hence; But this recomferts me; the kind Lo(rd) Maior, His bretheren aldermen, with ther faire wives, Will feast this night with vs: why, so it shuld be; 17

Moores mery hart lives by good companie.— Good gentlemen, be carefull; give great charge Our diet be made daynty for the tast; For, of all people that the earth affords, The Londoners fare richest at ther bourds. 22
[*Exeunt.*]

(ACT IV.

SCENE I.—Chelsea. A Room in More's House.)

Enter Sir Thomas Moore, Master Roper, and Servingmen setting stooles.

Moore. Come, my good fellowes, stirre, be dilligent; Sloth is an ydle fellowe, leaue him now; The time requires your expeditious seruice. Place me heere stooles, to set the ladies on.—

314 foole deleted before asse in MS. Scene III. etc.
add. H 9 and add. Dyce 17 so it] soet MS.
Act IV. etc. add. H 1 dilligent MS.; vigilant H

Sonne Roper, you haue giuen order for the banquet? 5
Ro. I haue, my lord, and euery thing is readie.

Enter his Lady.

Moore. Oh, welcome, wife! giue you direction
 How women should be plac'de; you knowe it best.

For my Lord Maior, his bretheren, and the rest,

Let me alone; men best can order men. 10

La. I warrant ye, my lord, all shalbe well.
 Ther's one without that stayes to speake with ye,
 And bad me tell ye that he is a player.

Moore. A player, wife!—One of ye bid him come in. [ex one.

Nay, stirre there, fellowes; fye, ye are to slowe! See that your lights be in a readines: 16

The banquet shalbe here.—Gods me, madame, Leau me my Lady Maiorresse! bothe of vs from the boord!

And my sonne Roper too! what may our guests thinke?

La. My lord, they are risen, and sitting by the fire. 20

Moore. Why, yet goe you and keepe them companie;

It is not meete we should be absent bothe. [ex. *La.*

ent. Player.

Welcome, good freend; what is your will with me?

Player. My lord, my fellowes and myselfe Are come to tender ye our willing seruice, 25
 So please you to commaund vs.

Moore. What, for a play, you meane?
 Whom doo ye serue?

Player. My Lord Cardinall's grace.

Moore. My Lord Cardinall's players! now, trust me, welcome: 30

You happen hether in a luckie time,
 To pleasure me, and benefit yourselues.

The Maior of London and some aldermen,
 His lady and their wiues, are my kinde guests

This night at supper: now, to haue a play 35
 Before the banquet, will be excellent.—

How thinke you, sonne Roper?

Ro. Twill doo well, my lord,
 And be right pleasing pastime to your guests.

Moore. I prethee, tell me, what playes haue ye? 40

Player. Diuers, my lord: *The Cradle of Securtie,*

Hit nayle o'th head, Impacient Pouertie, The play of Foure Pees, Diues and Lazarus, Lustie Iuuentus, and The Mariage of Witt and Wisdome.

Moore. *The Mariage of Witt and Wisdome!* that, my lads; 45

Ile none but that; the theame is very good,
 And may maintaine a liberall argument:

To marie wit to wisdome, asks some cunning;
 Many haue witt, that may come short of wisdome. 49

Wee see how M(aiste)r poet playes his part,
 And whether witt or wisdome grace his arte.—
 Goe, make him drinke, and all his fellowes too.—

How manie are ye?

Player. Foure men and a boy, sir.

Moore. But one boy? then I see, 55
 Ther's but fewe women in the play.

Player. Three, my lord; Dame Science,
 Lady Vanitie,

And Wisdome she herselfe.

Moore. And one boy play them all? bir lady, hees loden. 59

Well, my good fellowe, get ye strait together,
 And make ye readie with what haste ye may.—

Prouide their supper gainste the play be doone,
 Elshall we stay our guests heere ouer long.—

Make haste, I pray ye.

Player. We will, my lord. 65
 [ex. *Ser. & player.*

Moore. Where are the waytes? goe, bid them play,

To spend the time a while.

En. Lady.

How now, madame?

La. My lord, th'are coming hether.

Moore. Th'are welcome. Wife, Ile tell ye one thing; 69

Our sporte is somewhat mended; we shall haue
 A play to night, *The Mariage of Witt and*

Wisdome,
 And acted by my good Lord Cardinall's players:

How like ye that, wife?

La. My lord, I like it well.

See, they are comming. 75

The waytes playes; enters Lord Maior, so many Aldermen as may, the Lady Maiorresse in scarlet, with other Ladies and Sir Thomas Moores Daughters; Seruauntes carying lighted torches by them.

Moore. Once againe welcome, welcome, my good Lord Maior,

And bretheren all, for once I was your brother,

67 *S.D. follows madame in MS.*

And so am still in hart: it is not state
That can our looue from London separte. 79
(True, vpstart fools, by sudden fortune tried,
Regard their former mates with) naught but
pride.

But they that cast an eye still whence they
came,

Knowe how they rose, and how to vse the
same.

L. Maior. My lord, you set a glosse on
Londons fame,

And make it happie euer by your name. 85
Needs must we say, when we remember Moore,
Twas he that droue rebellion from our doore
With grauediscretions milde and gentle breath,
Sheelding a many subiects liues from death.
Oh, how our cittie is by you renownde, 90
And with your vertues our endeaours crownde!

Moore No more, my good Lord Maior: but
thanks to all,

That on so short a summons you would come
To visite him that holdes your kindnesse
deere.—

Madame, you are not merie with my Lady
Maiorresse 95

And these fayre ladies; pray ye, seate them
all:—

And heere, my lord, let me appoint your
place;—

The rest to seate themselues:—nay, Ile
wearie ye;

You will not long in haste to visite me.

La. Good madame, sit; in sooth, you
shall sit heere. 100

La. Mai. Good madame, pardon me; it
may not be.

La. In troth, Ile haue it so: Ile sit heere by
yee.—

Good ladies, sit.—More stooles heere, hoel

La. Mai. It is your fauour, madame, makes
me thus

Presume aboue my merit. 105

La. When we come to you,

Then shall you rule vs as we rule you heere.

Now must I tell ye, madame, we haue a
play,

To welcome ye withall; how good so ere,

That knowe not I; my lord will haue it so. 110

Moore. Wife, hope the best; I am sure theyle
doo their best:

They that would better, comes not at their
feaste.

My good Lord Cardinales players, I thanke
them for it,

Play vs a play, to lengthen out your welcome:
They say it is *The Mariage of Wit and Wise-*
dome, 115

A theame of some importe, how ere it prooue;
But, if arte faile, wee le inche it out with
looue.—

(*Enter a Servant.*)

What, are they readie?

Ser. My lord, one of the players craues to
speake with you. 120

Moore. With me! where is he?

Enter Inclination the Vise, readie.

Incl. Heere, my lord.

Moore. How now! what's the matter?

Incl. We would desire your honor but to
stay a little; one of my fellowes is but run to
Oagles for a long beard for young Witt, and
hee le be heere presently. 127

Moore. A long beard for young Witt! why,
man, he may be without a beard till he come
to mariage, for witt goes not all by the hayre.
When comes Witt in? 131

Incl. In the second scene, next to the
Prologue, my lord.

Moore. Why, play on till that sceane come,
and by that time Witts beard will be growne,
or else the fellowe returned with it. And what
part plaist thou? 137

Incl. Inclination the Vice, my lord.

Moore. Gramercies, now I may take the
vice if I list: and wherfore hast thou that bridle
in thy hand? 141

Incl. I must be bridled anon, my lord.

Moore. And thou beest not sadled too, it
makes no matter, for then Witts inclination
may gallop so fast, that he will outstrip Wise-
dome, and fall to follie. 146

Incl. Indeed, so he does to Lady Vanitie;
but we haue no follie in our play.

Moore. Then ther's no witt in't, Ile be
sworne: follie waites on witt, as the shaddowe
on the bodie, and where witt is ripest there
follie still is readiest. But beginne, I prethee:
weele rather allowe a beardslesse Witt then
Witt all bearde to haue no braine. 154

Incl. Nay, he has his apparell on too, my
lord, and therefore he is the readier to enter.

Moore. Then, good Inclination, beginne at
a venter.— [Exit (Inclin.)

My Lord Maior,
Witt lacks a beard, or else they would beginne:

80-1 True . . mates with *pr. ed.*: Within this city
I did long abide, And I regard it still with *conj. H.*
but this does not give the meaning: *MS.* illegible

114 Followed in *MS.* by the deleted line: My good
Lord Maior, and all my other frends 117 *S. D.*
add. H 130 all] lightly crossed out in *MS.* and
perhaps to be omitted

Ide lend him mine, but that it is too thinne.

Silence, they come. 161

The trumpet soundes; enter the Prologue.

Pro. Now, for as much as in these latter dayes,

Throughout the whole world in euery land,

Vice doth encrease, and vertue decays,

Iniquitie hauing the vpper hand; 165

We therefore intend, good gentle audience,

A prettie short entrelude to play at this present,

Desiring your leaue and quiet silence,

To shewe the same, as is meete and expedient.

It is called The Mariage of Witt and Wisedome,

A matter right pithie and pleasing to heare,

Wherof in breefe we will shewe the whole summe;

But I must be gon, for Witt dooth appeare.

[Exit.

Enter Witt ruffling, and Inclination the Vice.

Witt. In an arbour greene, asleepe whereas

I lay, 174

The birdes sang sweetely in the midst of the day,

I dreamed fast of mirthe and play,—

In youth is pleasure, in youthe is pleasure.

Methought I walked still to and fro,

And from her companie I could not goe;

But when I waked, it was not so,— 180

In youth is pleasure, in youth is pleasure.

Therefore my hart is surely plight,

Of her alone to haue a sight,

Which is my ioy and harts delight,—

In youth is pleasure, in youth is pleasure. 185

Moore. Marke ye, my lord, this is Witt without a bearde: what will he be by that time he comes to the commoditie of a bearde?

Incli. Oh, sir, the ground is the better on which she dooth goe;

For she will make better cheere with a little she can get, 190

Then many a one can with a great banquet of meat.

Witt. And is her name Wisedome?

Incli. I, sir, a wife moste fitt

For you, my good maister, my daintie sweet Witt.

Witt. To be in her companie my hart it is set: Therefore I prethee to let vs begyn; 196

For vnto Wisedome Witt hath inclination.

Incli. Oh, sir, she will come her selfe euen anon;

For I tolde her before where we would stand, And then she sayd she would beck vs with her hand.— 200

Back with these boyes and saucie great knaues!

[*Florishing his dagger.*

What, stand ye heere so bigge in your braues?

My dagger about your coxcombes shall walke,

If I may but so much as heare ye chat or talke.

Witt. But will she take paines to come for vs hether? 205

Incli. I warrant ye; therefore you must be familiare with her:

When she commeth in place,

You must her embrace

Somewhat hansomely,

Least she thinke it daunger, 210

Because you are a straunger,

To come in your companie.

Witt. I warrant thee, Inclination, I will be busie:

Oh, how Witt longs to be in Wisedomes companie!

Enter Lady Vanitie singing, and beckning with her hand.

Van. Come hether, come hether, come hether, come: 215

Such chere as I haue, thou shalt haue some.

Moore. This is Lady Vanitie, Ile holde my life:—

Beware, good Witt, you take not her to wife.

Incli. What, vnknowne honestie? a woord in your eare. [She offers to depart.

You shall not be gon as yet, I sweare: 220

Heer's none but your freends, you need not to fray;

This young gentleman looues ye, therefore you must stay.

Witt. I trust in me she will thinke no daunger,

For I looue well the companie of fayre women;

And though to you I am a straunger, 225

Yet Witt may pleasure you now and then.

Van. Who, you? nay, you are such a holy man,

That to touche one you dare not be bolde;

I thinke you would not kisse a young woman,

If one would giue ye twentie pound in golde.

Witt. Yes, in good sadnesse, lady, that I would; 231

I could finde in my hart to kisse you in your smock.

Van. My back is broade enough to beare that mock;

For it hath bin tolde me many a time

That you would be seene in no such companie as mine. 235

174 ff. This interlude to line 243 is merely an adaptation of part of *Lusty Iuuentus* 182 [plight] pight H: pight is the reading in *Lusty Iuuentus*

208-9 One line in MS.

211-12 One line in MS.

Witt. *Not Witt in the companie of Lady
Wisedome!*
Oh Joue, for what doo I hether come?
*Incli. Sir, she did this nothing else but to
prooue*
Whether a little thing would you mooue
To be angrie and fret: 240
What, and if one sayd so?
Let such trifling matters g
And with a kinde kisse come out of her debt.—
Is Luggins come yet with the beard?

Enter an other Player.

*Player. No, faith, he is not come: alas,
what shall we doo?* 246

*Incli. Forsooth, we can goe no further till
our fellowe Luggins come; for he plays Good
Councill, and now he should enter, to admon-
nishe Witt that this is Lady Vanitie, and not
Lady Wisedome.* 251

*Moore. Nay, and it be no more but so, ye
shall not tarie at a stand for that; weele not
haue our play marde for lacke of a little good
councill: till your fellowe come, Ile giue him
the best councill that I can.—Pardon me, my
Lord Maior; I loue to be merie.—* 257
*Oh . . . Witt, thou art nowe on the bowe hand,
And blindly in thine owne oppinion doost
stand.*

*I tell thee, this naughtie lewde Inclination
Does lead thee amisse in a very straunge fashion:
This is not Wisedome, but Lady Vanitie; 262
Therefore list to Good Councill, and be ruled
by me.*

*Incli. In troth, my lord, it is as right to
Lugginses part as can be.—Speake, Witt.*

*Moore. Nay, we will not haue our audience
disappointed, if I can help it.*

*Witt. Art thou Good Councill, and wilt tell
me so?*
*Wouldst thou haue Witt from Lady Wisedome
to goe?*

*Thou art some deceiuer, I tell thee verily, 270
In saying that this is Lady Vanitie.*

*Moore. Witt, iudge not things by the out-
warde shoue;*
*The eye oft mistakes, right well you doo
knowe:*

*Good Councill assures thee vppon his honestie,
That this is not Wisedome, but Lady Vanitie.*

Enter Luggins with the bearde.

*Incli. Oh, my lord, he is come; now we
shall goe forwarde.* 277

*Moore. Art thou come? well, fellowe, I
haue holpe to saue thine honestie a little.
Now, if thou canst giue Witt any better coun-*

*cell then I haue doone, spare not: there I
leauie him to thy mercie.* 282

*But by this time, I am sure, our banquet's
readie:*

*My lord and ladyes, we will taste that first,
And then they shall begin the play againe,
Which through the fellowes absence, and by
me,* 286

*Insted of helping, hath bin hindered.—
Prepare against we come.—Lights there, I
say!*—

*Thus fooles oft times doo help to marre the
play.* [exeunt.—*ma. players.*

*Witt. Fye, fellowe Luggins, you serue vs
hansomely; doo ye not, thinke ye?* 291

*Lug. Why, Oagle was not within, and his
wife would not let me haue the beard; and,
by my troth, I ran so fast that I sweat againe.*

*Incli. Doo ye heare, fellowes? would not
my lord make a rare player? oh, he would
vpholde a companie beyond all hoe, better
then Mason among the kings players! Did
ye marke how extemplically he fell to the
matter, and spake Lugginsses parte almoste
as it is in the very booke set downe?* 301

*Witt. Peace; doo ye knowe what ye say?
my lord a player! let vs not meddle with any
such matters: yet I may be a little proude that
my lord hath answerd me in my parte. But
come, let vs goe, and be readie to begin the
play againe.* 307

*Lug. I, thats the best, for now we lack
nothing.*

Enter a Servingman.

Man. Where be theis players? 310

All. Heere, sir.

*Man. My lord is sent for to the courte,
And all the guests doo after supper parte;
And, for he will not trowle you againe,
By me for your reward a sends 8 angills, 315
With many thanks. But supp before you
goe:*

*Yt is his will you should be farely entreatid:
Follow, I praye ye.*

*Witt. This, Luggins, is your neclegens;
Wanting Witts beard brought things into dis-
like;* 320

*For otherwies the playe had bin all seene,
Wher now some curius cittisin disgraiste itt,
And discommendinge ytt, all is distemiste.*

*Vice. Fore God, a sayes true. But heare ye,
sirs: 8 angells, ha! my lord wold neuer giues*

312 Two words deleted in MS. after My lord 319
 After Luggins, the word all has been deleted in MS.
 322 cittisin] criticism conj. H: several words deleted in
 MS.

8 angells more or les for 12^d; other yt shold
be 3^l, 5^l, or tenn li.; ther(s) 20^s wantinge, sure.
Witt. Twenty to one, tis soe. I haue a
tricke: my lord comes; stand aside. 329

*Enter Moore, with Attendants with Purss
and Mace.*

Lord (Chan.) In haist to counsell! whats
the busines now,
That all so late his highnes sends for me?—
What sekst thou, fellow?

Witt. Nay, nothing: your lordship sent 8
angills by your man, and I haue lost too of
them in the rishes. 335

Lord (Chan.) Wytt, looke to thatt:—
8 angells! I did send them tenn.—Who gaue
yt them?

Man. I, my lord; I had no more aboute
me;
But buy and buy they shall risseae the
rest. 340

Lord (Chan.) Well, Witt, twas wieslye
donne; thou plaist Witt well endede,
Not to be thus disseaued of thy righte.—
Am I a man, by offis truely ordaind
Equally to deuide true righte his owne,
And shall I haue disseauers in my house? 345
Then what auales my bowntie, when such
seruants

Disseae the pore of what the M(aiste)r giues?
Goe one, and pull his cote ouer his eares:
Ther ar too manye such.—Giue them ther
righte.—

Witt, let thie fellowes thanke the: twas well
dunn; 350
Thou now disserueste to match with Ladye
Wisdom. [Exit Moore with Attend.

Vice. God a mersye, Wytt!—Sir, you had
a maister Sir Thomas More more; but now we
shall haue more. 354

Lugg. God blesse him! I wold ther weare
more of his minde! a loues our qualletie; and
yt hees a larnid man, and knows what the
world is.

Clo. Well, a kinde man, and more loving
then many other: but I thinke we ha mett
with the first . . . 361

Luggins. First serud his man that had our
angills; and he maye chaunce dine with Duke
Homphrye to morrow, beinge turnde awaye to
daye. Come, lets goe. 365

Clo. And many such rewards wold make
vs all ride, and horsse vs with the best nags
in Smithfelde. (Exeunt.)

(SCENE II.—Whitehall. The Council Chamber.)

*Enter the Earles of Shrewesburie, Surrey,
Bishop of Rochester, and other Lordes,
seuerally, dooing curtesie to eche other;
Clark of the Councell waiting bareheaded.*

Sur. Good morrowe to my Lord of Shrewes-
burie.

Shrew. The like vnto the honourd Earle of
Surrey.

Yond comes my Lord of Rochester.

Rochest. Good morrowe, my good lordes.

Sur. Clarke of the Councell, what time ist
of day? 5

Clarke. Past eight of clock, my lord.

Shrew. I wunder that my good Lord Chaun-
cellour

Dooth stay so long, considering ther's matters
Of high importaunce to be scand vppon.

Sur. Clarke of the Councell, certefie his
lordship 10

The lordes expect him heere.

Rochest. It shall not need;
Yond comes his lordship.

*Enter Sir Thomas Moore, with Purss and
Mace borne before him.*

Moore. Good morrowe to this faire assem-
blye. 14

Come, my good lords, let's sit. Oh serious
square! [They sit.

Vppon this little borde is dayly scande
The health and preservation of the land;
We the phisitions that effect this good,
Now by choise diett, annon by letting blood;
Our toyle and carefull watching brings the
king 20

In league with slumbers, to which peace dooth
sing.—

Auoyde the roome there!—

What busines, lords, to day?

Shrew. This, my good lord;
About the entertainment of the emperour 25
Gainst the perfidious Frenche into our pay.

Sur. My lords, as tis the custome in this
place

The youngest should speake first, so, if I
chaunce

In this case to speake youngly, pardon me.
I will agree, Fraunce now hath her full
strength, 30

As hauing newe recovered the pale blood
Which warre sluic'de foorth; and I consent to
this,

That the coniunction of our Englishe forces
With armes of Germanie may sooner bring

330 ff. For original draft of this passage see Appendix,
p. 419 337 gaue] gaue MS. 347 Word deleted in
MS. after pore 360 Deletion after then

Scene II. etc. add. H 26 Deletion after our

This prize of conquest in. But, then, my lordes,
As in the morrall hunting twixt the lyon 36
And other beastes, force ioynd (with greed)
Frighted the weaker sharers from their partes;
So, if the empires soueraigne chaunce to put
His plea of partnership into warres courte, 40
Swoordes should discide the difference, and
our blood

In priuate teares lament his entertainement.

Shrew. To doubt the wurst is still the wise
mans sheeld,

That armes him safely: but the worlde knowes
this,

The emperour is a man of royall faith; 45
His looue vnto our soueraigne brings him
downe

From his emperiall seate, to marche in pay
Vnder our English flagge, and weare the
crosse,

Like some high order, on his manly breast;
Thus seruing, hees not maister of himselfe, 50
But, like a collonell commanding other,
Is by the generall ouer-awed himselfe.

Rochest. Yet, my good lord—

Shrew. Let me conclude my speeche.
As subjects share no portion in the conquest 55
Of their true soueraigne, other then the meritt
That from the soueraigne guerdons the true
subiect;

So the good emperour, in a freendly league
Of amitie with England, will not soyle
His honor with the theft of Englishe spoyle. 60

Moore. There is no question but this enter-
tainement

Will be moste honorable, moste commodious.
I haue oft heard good captaines wish to haue
Riche soldiours to attend them, such as would
fight

Bothe for their liues and liuings; such a one 65
Is the good emperour: I would to God,
We had ten thousand of such able men!

Hah, then there would appeare no courte, no
cittie,

But, where the warres were, they would pay
themselves.

Then, to preuent in Frenche warres Englands
losse, 70

Let Germaine flagges waue with our Englishe
crosse.

Enter Sir Thomas Palmer.

Pal. My lordes, his maiestie hath sent by
me

These articles enclos'de, first to be viewde,
And then to be subscribed to: I tender them 74

36 As MS.: Its Dyce 37 with greed pr. col.:
together H: MS. illegible

In that due reuerence which befits this place.

[With great reuerence.]

Moore. Subscribe these articles! stay, let vs
pause;

Our conscience first shall parley with our
lawes.—

My Lord of Rochester, viewe you the paper.

Rochest. Subscribe to these! now, good Sir

Thomas Palmer,

Beseche the king that he will pardon me: 80
My hart will check my hand whilste I doo write;
Subscribing so, I were an hypocrite.

Pal. Doo you refuse it, then, my lord?

Rochest. I doo, Sir Thomas.

Pal. Then heere I summon you foorthwith
t'appeare 85

Before his maiestie, to answere there

This capitall contempt.

Rochest. I rise and parte,

In lieu of this to tender him my hart.

[He riseth.]

Pal. Wilt please your honor to subscribe,
my lord? 90

Moore. Sir, tell his highnesse, I entreate
Some time for to bethinke me of this taske:
In the meane while I doo resigne mine office
Into my soueraignes hands.

Pal. Then, my lord, 95

Heare the prepared order from the king:
On your refusall, you shall strait departe
Vnto your house at Chelsey, till you knowe
Our soueraignes further pleasure.

Moore. Moste willingly I goe.— 100

My lordes, if you will visite me at Chelsey,
Weele goe a fishing, and with a cunning nett,
Not like weake filme, weele catche none but
the great:

Farewell, my noble lordes. Why, this is right;
Good morrowe to the sunne, to state good
night! [ex. Moore.]

Pal. Will you subscribe, my lordes? 106

Sur. Instantly, good Sir Thomas,
Weele bring the writing vnto our soueraigne.

[They write.]

Pal. My Lord of Rochester,

You must with me, to answere this contempt.

Roches. This is the wurst, 111

Who's freed from life is from all care exempt.

[ex. Ro. and Pal.]

Sur. Now let vs (hasten) to our soueraigne.
Tis straunge that my Lord Chauncellour
should refuse

The dutie that the lawe of God bequeathes 115
Vnto the king.

Shrew. Come, let vs in. No doubt

85 ff. Cancelled by Tynney, who writes in margin all
altr'. 113 hasten H: MS. illegible

His minde will alter, and the bishops too:
Errour in learned heads hath much to doo.

(*Exeunt.*)

(SCENE III.—Chelsea.)

Enter the Lady Moore, her two Daughters, and M(aiste)r Roper, as walking.

Ro. Madame, what ayles yee for to looke so sad?

Lady. Troth, sonne, I knowe not what; I am not sick,

And yet I am not well. I would be merie;
But somewhat lyes so heauie on my hart,
I cannot chuse but sigh. You are a scholler;
I pray ye, tell me, may one credit dreames? 6

Ro. Why ask you that, deare madame?

Lady. Because to night I had the straungest dreame

That ere my sleep was troubled with. Me
thought twas night,

And that the king and queene went on the
Themes 10

In bardges to heare musique: my lord and I
Were in a little boate me thought,—Lord,
Lord,

What straunge things liue in slumbers!—and,
beeing neere,

We graped to the barge that bare the king.
But after many pleasing voyces spent 15
In that still mooouing musique house, me
thought

The violence of the streame did seuer vs
Quite from the golden fleet, and hurried vs
Vnto the bridge, which with vnused horror
We entred at full tide: thence some slight
shoote 20

Beeing caried by the waues, our boate stood
still

Iust opposite the Tower, and there it turnde
And turnde about, as when a whirle-pooles
sucks

The circled waters: me thought that we bothe
cried,

Till that we sunck; where arme in arme we
died. 25

Ro. Giue no respect, deare madame, to
fond dreames;

They are but slight illusions of the blood.

Lady. Tell me not all are so; for often
dreames

Are true diuiners, either of good or ill:
I cannot be in quiet till I heare 30

How my lord fares.

Ro. (aside.) Nor I.—Come hether, wife:
I will not fright thy mother, to interpret
The nature of a dreame; but trust me, sweete,

Scene III. *etc. add. H*

This night I haue bin troubled with thy father
Beyond all thought. 36

Ro. Wife. Truly, and so haue I:

Methought I sawe him heere in Chelsey
Church,

Standing vpon the roodloft, now defac'de;
And whilst he kneeld and prayd before the
ymage, 40

It fell with him into the vpper-quier,
Where my poore father lay all staine in
blood.

Ro. Our dreames all meet in one conclusion,
Fatall, I feare.

Lady. What's that you talke? I pray ye,
let me knowe it. 45

Ro. Wife. Nothing, good mother.

Lady. This is your fashion still; I must
knowe nothing.

Call Maister Catesbie; he shall strait to courte,
And see how my lord does: I shall not rest,
Vntill my hart leaue panting on his breast. 50

*Enter Sir Thomas Moore merily, Seruaunts
attending.*

Daugh. See where my father comes, ioyfull
and merie.

Moore. As seamen, hauing past a troubled
storme,

Dance on the pleasant shoare; so I—Oh,
I could speake

Now like a poett! now, afore God, I am passing
light!—

Wife, giue me kinde welcome: thou wast wunt
to blame 55

My kissing when my beard was in the stubble;
But I haue bin trimde of late; I haue had

A smoothe courte shauing, in good faith,
I haue.— [*Daughters kneele.*

God blesse ye!—Sonne Roper, giue me your
hand.

Ro. Your honor's welcome home. 60

Moore. Honor! ha ha!—And how doost,
wife?

Ro. He beares himselfe moste straungely.

Lady. Will your lordship in?

Moore. Lordship! no, wife, that's gon; 64
The ground was slight that we did leane vpon.

Lady. Lord, that your honor nere will leaue
these jests!

In faith, it ill becomes yee.

Moore. Oh, good wife,

Honor and jests are bothe together fled;
The meriest counsellour of England's dead. 70

Lady. Whose that, my lord?

Moore. Still lord! the Lord Chauncellour,
wife.

Lady. Thats you.

Moore Certaine; but I haue chaungde my life.

Am I not leaner then I was before? 75

The fatt is gon; my tittle's only *Moore*.

Contented with one stile, Ile liue at rest:

They that haue many names are not still best.

I haue resignde mine office: count'st me not wise?

Lady. Oh God! 80

Moore. Come, breed not female children in your eyes:

The king will haue it so.

Lady. What's the offence?

Moore. Tush, let that passe; wee le talke of that anon.

The king seemes a phisitian to my fate; 85

His princely minde would traine me back to state.

Ro. Then be his patient, my moste honord father.

Moore. Oh, sonne *Roper*,

Vbi turpis est medicina, sanari piget!—

No, wife, be merie;—and be merie, all: 90

You smilde at rising, weepe not at my fall.

Let's in, and heere ioy like to priuate freends,

Since dayes of pleasure haue repentant ends:

The light of greatnesse is with triumph borne;

It sets at midday oft with publique scorne. 95

[*Exeunt*.]

(SCENE IV.—The Tower.)

Enter the Bishop of Rochester, Surrey, Shrewsbury, Lieutenant of the Tower, and Warders with weapons.

Rochest. Your kinde perswasions, honorable lords,

I can but thanke ye for; but in this brest

There liues a soule that aimes at higher things

Then temporarie pleasing earthly kings.

God blesse his highnesse euen with all my hart!— 5

We shall meete one day, though that now we part.

Sur. We not misdoubt, your wisdome can discern

What best befits it; yet in looue and zeale

We could entreate, it might be otherwise.

Shrew. No doubt, your fatherhood will by yourselfe 10

Consider better of the present case,

And growe as great in fauour as before.

Rochest. For that, as pleaseth God. In my restraints

From worldly causes, I shall better see

Into myselfe then at proude libertie: 15

The Tower and I will priuately conferre

Scene IV. add. H

Of things, wherin at freedome I may erre.

But I am troublesome vnto your honors,

And holde ye longer then becomes my dutie.—

M(aiste)r Lieutenant, I am now your charge;

And though you keep my bodie, yet my looue

Waites on my king and you, while *Fisher* liues. 22

Sur. Farewell, my Lord of Rochester; wee le pray

For your release, and labour't as we may

Shrew. Therof assure yourselfe; so doo

we leaue yee, 25

And to your happie priuate thoughts bequeath yee. [*ex. Lords*.]

Rochest. Now, *M(aiste)r Lieutenant*, on;

a Gods name, goe!

And with as glad a minde goe I with you

As euer trewant bad the schoole adiewe.

[*Exeunt*.]

(SCENE V.—Chelsea. A Room in *More's* House.)

Enter Sir Thomas Moore, his Lady, Daughters, M(aiste)r Roper, Gentlemen, and Seruants, as in his house at Chelsey.

Moore. God morrowe, good sonne *Roper*.—

Sitt, good madame, [*Lowe stooles*.]

Vppon an humble seate; the time so craues; Rest your good hart on earth, the roofof graues:

You see the floore of greatnesse is uneuen;

The cricket and high throane alike neere heauen.— 5

Now, daughters, you that like to braunches spread,

And giue best shaddowe to a priuate house,

Be comforted, my girles; your hopes stand faire:

Vertue breeds gentrie, she makes the best heire.

Both Daugh. God morrow to your honor.

Moore. Nay, good night rather; 11

Your honor's creast-falne with your happie father.

Ro. Oh, what formalitie, what square obseruance,

Liues in a little roome! heere publique care

Gagges not the eyes of slumber; heere fierce riott 15

Ruffles not proudly in a coate of trust,

Whilste, like a pawne at chesse, he keeps in ranck

With kings and mightie fellows; yet indeed

Those men that stand on tiptoe smile to see Him pawne his fortunes. 20

Moore. True, sonne, . . .

Scene V. add. H 21 *Several words have been lost. H supplies you say well.*

Nor does the wanton tongue heere skrewe
itselfe

Into the eare, that like a vise drinks vp
The yron instrument.

Lady. We are heere at peace.

Moore. Then peace, good wife.

Lady. For, keeping still in compasse, (a
straunge poynte

In times newe nauigation) we haue sailde
Beyond our course.

Moore. Haue doone.

Lady. We are exilee the courte.

Moore. Still thou harpste on that:

Tis sinne for to deserue that banishment;

But he that nere knewe courte, courtes sweete
content.

Lady. Oh, but, deare husband——

Moore. I will not heare thee, wife;

The winding laborinth of thy straunge dis-
course

Will nere haue end. Sit still; and, my good
wife,

Entreate thy tongue be still; or, credit me, 39
Thou shalt not vnderstand a woord we speake;

Weele talke in Latine.

Humida vallis raras patitur fulminis ictus,
More rest enioyes the subiect meanely bred

Then he that beares the kingdome in his head.
Great men are still musitians, else the world

lyes; 45
They learne lowe straines after the noates that
rise.

Ro. Good sir, be still yourselfe, and but
remember

How in this generall courte of short-liu'd
pleasure,

The worlde, creation is the ample foode
That is digested in the mawe of tyme: 50

If man himselfe be subiect to such ruine,
How shall his garment, then, or the loose

poyntes
That thy respect vnto his awefull place,
Auoyde distruction? Moste honord father in

lawe,
The blood you haue bequeath'de these seuerall
hartes 55

To nourishe your posteritie, stands firme;
And, as with ioy you led vs first to rise,

So with like harts weele lock preferments eyes.
Moore. Close them not, then, with teares;

for that ostent
Gives a wett signall of your discontent. 60

If you will share my fortunes, comfort then;
An hundred smiles for one sighe: what! we

are men:
Resigne wett passion to these weaker eyes,

57 And *Dyce*: As *MS.*

Which prouoos their sexe, but grauntes (it)
nere more wise.

Lets now suruaye our state. Heere sits my
wife, 65

And deare esteemed issue; yonder stand
My loouing seruauunts: now the difference

Twixt those and these. Now you shall heare
me speake

Like *Moore* in melanchollie. I conceiue that
nature

Hath sundrie mettalles, out of which she
frames 70

Vs mortalles, eche in valuation

Outprizing other: of the finest stuffe

The finest features come: the rest of earth,
Receiue base fortune euen before their birthe;

Hence slaues haue their creation; and I thinke
Nature prouides content for the base minde;

Vnder the whip, the burden, and the toyle, 77
Their lowe-wrought bodies drudge in pacionce;

As for the prince in all his sweet-gorgde mawe,
And his ranck fleshe, that sinfully renewes

The noones excesse in the nights daungerous
surfeits. 81

What meanes or miserie from our birth dooth
flowe

Nature entitles to vs; that we owe:

But we, beeing subiect to the rack of hate,
Falling from happie life to bondage state, 85

Hauing seene better dayes, now know the lack
Of glorie that once rearde eche high-fed back.

But (you), that in your age did nere viewe
better,

Challendge not fortune for your thriftlesse
debter.

Catesbie. Sir, we haue seene farre better
dayes then these. 90

Moore. I was the patrone of those dayes,
and knowe

Those were but painted dayes, only for showe.
Then greewe not you to fall with him that gaue

them:
Generosis seruis gloriosum mori. 94

Deare Gough, thou art my learned secretarie;
You, Master *Catesbie*, steward of my house;

The rest (like you) haue had fayre time to
growe

In sun-shine of my fortunes. But I must tell
ye,

Corruption is fled hence with eche mans office;
Bribes, that make open traffick twixt the soule

And netherland of hell, deliuer vp 101
Their guiltie homage to their second lordes.

64 it add, *Dyce* 68-89 This speech and all but the
first three lines of *Moore's* next speech deleted in *MS.* For
the revised version of this passage, cf. *Appendix*, pp. 419-
20 94 Deletion in *MS.* before *Generosis*

Then, liuing thus vntainted, you are well:
Trueth is no pilot for the land of hell.

Enter a Seruaunt.

(*Ser.*) My lord, there are new lighted at the
gate 105

The Earles of Surrie (and) of Shrewesburie,
And they expect you in the inner courte.

Moore. Entreate their lordships come into
the hall. (*Exit Ser.*)

Lady. Oh, God, what newes with them?

Moore. Why, how now, wife! 110

They are but come to visite their olde freend.

Lady. Oh, God, I feare, I feare!

Moore. What shouldst thou feare, fond
woman?

*Justum, si fractus illabatur orbis, inpavidum
ferient ruinæ.*

Heere let me liue estraunge from great mens
lookes; 115

They are like golden flyes on leaden hookes.

*Enter the Earles, Downes with his mace, and
Attendants*

Shrew. Good morrowe, good Sir Thomas.

[*Kinde salutations.*]

Sur. Good day, good madame.

Moore. Welcome, my good lordes.

What ayles your lordships looke so melan-
chollie? 120

Oh, I knowe; you liue in courte, and the
courte diett

Is only freend to phisick.

Sur. Oh, Sir Thomas,

Our wordes are now the kings, and our sad
lookes

The interest of your looue! We are sent to you
From our milde soueraigne, once more to
demaund 126

If youle subscribe vnto those articles

He sent ye th' other day: be well aduisde;

For, on mine honor, lord, graue Doctor Fisher
Bishop of Rochester, at the selfe same instant

Attachte with you, is sent vnto the Tower 131

For the like obstinacie: his maiestie

Hath only sent you prisoner to your house;

But, if you now refuse for to subscribe,

A stricter course will followe. 135

Lady. Oh, deare husband!

[*Kneeling and weeping.*]

Both Daugh. Deare father!

Moore. See, my lordes,

This partner and these subiects to my fleshe
Prooue rebelles to my conscience! But, my
good lordes, 140

If I refuse, must I vnto the Tower?

106 and add. Dyce

Shrew. You must, my lord; heere is an
officer

Readie for to arrest you of high treason.

Lady and Daugh. Oh, God, oh, God!

Ro. Be pacient, good madame. 145

Moore. I, Downes, ist thou? I once did
saue thy life,

When else by cruell riottous assaulte

Thou hadst bin torne in pieces: thou art
reseru'de

To be my sumner to yond spirituall courte.

Giue me thy hand; good fellowe, smooth thy
face: 150

The diet that thou drinkst is spic'de with mace,
And I could nere abide it; twill not digest,

Twill lye too heaueie, man, on my weake
brest.

Shrew. Be breefe, my lord, for we are
limited

Vnto an houre. 155

Moore. Vnto an houre! tis well:

The bell (earths thunder) soone shall toale my
knell.

Lady. Deare loouing husband, if you
respect not me,

Yet thinke vppon your daughters. [*Kneeling.*]

Moore. Wife, stand vp; I haue bethought
me, 160

And Ile now satisfye the kings good pleasure.

[*Pondering to himselfe.*]

Both Daugh. Oh, happie alteration!

Shrew. Come, then, subscribe, my lord.

Sur. I am right glad of this your fayre
conuerssion.

Moore. Oh, pardon me! 165

I will subscribe to goe vnto the Tower

With all submissiue willingnes, and therto add

My bones to strengthen the foundation

Of Julius Cæsars pallace. Now, my lord,

Ile satisfye the king, euen with my blood; 170

Nor will I wrong your pacience.—Freend, doo
thine office.

Dow. Sir Thomas Moore, Lord Chauncel-
lour of England, I arrest you in the kings name
of high treason.

Moore. Gramercies, freend. 175

To a great prison, to discharge the strife

Commenc'de twixte conscience and my frailer
life,

Moore now must marche. Chelsey, adiewe,
adiewe!

(*Strauunge farewell!*) thou shalt nere more see
Moore true,

For I shall nere see thee more.—*Servauntes,*
farewell.— 180

157 Drawn through with a pen in MS.
subscribe Dyce: subscribe MS.

163 sub-

Wife, marre not thyne indifferent face; be wise:
 Moores widd(ow's) husband, he must make thee rise.—
 Daughters, . . . :—what's heere, what's heere?
 Mine eye had almost parted with a teare.—
 Deare sonne, possesse my vertue, that I nere gaue.— 185
 Graue Moore thus lightly walkes to a quick graue.
Ro. Curæ leues loquuntur, ingentes stupent.
Moore. You that way in; minde you my course in prayer:
 By water I to prison, to heauen through ayre. [Exeunt.]

(ACT V.

SCENE I.—The Tower Gate.)

Enter the Warders of the Tower, with halbardes.

1. *Ward.* Hoe, make a garde there!
 2. *M(aiste)r* Lieutenant giues a strait com-
 maund,
 The people be auoyded from the bridge.
 3. From whence is he committed, who can tell?
 1. From Durham House, I heare. 5
 2. The garde were waiting there an houre agoe.
 3. If he stay long, heele not get neere the wharffe,
 Ther's such a croude of boates vppon the Thames.
 2. Well, be it spoken without offence to any,
 A wiser or more vertuous gentleman 10
 Was neuer bred in England.
 3. I thinke, the poore will burie him in teares:
 I neuer heard a man, since I was borne,
 So generally bewailde of euery one.

Enter a Poore Woman.

What meanes this woman?—Whether doost thou presse? 15
 1. This woman will be trod to death anon.
 2. What makest thou heere?
Wo. To speake with that good man, Sir Thomas Moore.
 2. To speake with him! hees not Lord Chauncellour.
Wo. The more 's the pittie, sir, if it pleasde God. 20

2. Therefore, if thou hast a petition to deliuer,
 Thou mayst keepe it now, for any thing I knowe.
Wo. I am a poore woman, and haue had (God knowes)
 A suite this two yeare in the Chauncerie;
 And he hath all the euidence I haue, 25
 Which should I loose, I am vtterly vndoone.
 2. Faith, and I feare thoult hardly come by am now:
 I am sorie for thee, euen with all my hart.

Enter the Lords with Sir Thomas Moore, and Attendants, and enter Lieutenant and Gentleman Porter.

Woman, stand back, you must auoyde this place; 29
 The lords must passe this way into the Tower.
Moore. I thanke your lordships for your paines thus farre
 To my strong house.

Wo. Now, good Sir Thomas Moore, for Christes deare sake,
 Deliuer me my writings back againe
 That doo concerne my title. 35
Moore. What, my olde client, are thou got hether too?

Poore sillie wretche, I must confesse indeed,
 I had such writings as concerne thee neere;
 But the king has tane the matter into his owne hand;

He has all I had: then, woman, sue to him; 40
 I cannot help thee; thou must beare with me.

Wo. Ah, gentle hart, my soule for thee is sad!
 Farewell the best freend that the poore ere had.

[*exit woman.*]
Gent. Por. Before you enter through the Towergate,

Your vpper garment, sir, belongs to me. 45
Moore. Sir, you shall haue it; there it is.

[*He giues him his cap.*]
Gent. Por. The vpmoste on your back, sir; you mistake me.

Moore. Sir, now I understand ye very well:
 But that you name my back,
 Sure else my cap had bin the vppermoste. 50
Shrew. Farewell, kinde lord; God send vs merie meeting!

Moore. Amen, my lord.
Sur. Farewell, deare freend; I hope your safe returne.

Moore. My lord, and my deare fellowe in the Muses,

Farewell; farewell, moste noble poett. 55

54 moste. deleted in MS. before deare

182 widd(ow's) H 183 H supplies be virtuous
 Act V. etc. add. H 5 1. Dyce; 2. MS. 16 1. Dyce;
 2. MS.

Lieu. Adewe, moste honord lords.

[*ex. Lords.*

Moore. Fayre prison, welcome; yet, methinks,

For thy fayre building tis too foule a name.

Many a guiltie soule, and many an innocent,
Haue breathede their farewell to thy hollow
roomes. 60

I oft haue entred into thee this way;

Yet, I thanke God, nere with a clearer conscience

Then at this houre:

This is my comforte yet, how hard soere 64

My lodging prouue, the crye of the poore suter,
Fatherlesse orphan, or distressed widdowe,
Shall not disturbe me in my quiet sleepe.

On, then, a Gods name, to our cloase aboad!
God is as strong heere as he is abroad. 69

[*Exeunt.*

(SCENE II.—More's House.)

*Enter Butler, Brewer, Porter, and Horssekeeper
seuerall wayes.*

But. Robin brewer, how now, man! what cheere, what cheere?

Brew. Faith, Ned butler, sick of thy disease;
and these our other fellowes heere, Rafe
horssekeeper and Gyles porter, sad, sad; they
say my lord goes to his triall to day. 6

Hors. To it, man! why, he is now at it,
God send him well to speed!

Por. Amen; euen as I wishe to mine owne
soule, so speed it with my honorable lord and
maister, Sir Thomas Moore. 11

But. I cannot tell, I haue nothing to doo
with matters aboue my capacitie; but, as
God iudge me, if I might speake my minde,
I thinke there liues not a more harmelesse
gentleman in the vniersall worlde. 16

Brew. Nor a wiser, nor a merier, nor an
honester; goe too, Ile put that in vpon mine
owne knowledge.

Por. Nay, and ye bate him his due of his
housekeeping, hang ye all! ye haue many
Lord Chauncellours comes in debt at the
yeres end, and for very housekeeping. 23

Horsse. Well, he was too good a lord for vs,
and therefore, I feare, God himselfe will take
him: but Ile be hangd, if euer I haue such an
other seruice.

Brew. Soft, man, we are not dischargde
yet; my lord may come home againe, and all
will be well. 30

But. I much mistrust it; when they goe to
rayning once, ther's euer foule weather for
a great while after. But soft; heere comes

M(aiste)r Gough and Maister Catesbie: now we
shall heare more. 35

Ent. Gough and Catesbie with a paper.

Hors. Before God, they are very sad; I
doubt my lord is condemnde.

Por. God blesse his soule! and a figge then
for all worldly condemnation. 39

Gough. Well said, Giles porter, I commend
thee for it;

Twas spoken like a well affected seruanto
Of him that was a kinde lord to vs all.

Cate. Which now no more he shall be; for,
deare fellowes,

Now we are maisterlesse, though he may
liue

So long as please the king: but lawe hath made
him 45

A dead man to the world, and giuen the axe
his head,

But his sweete soule to liue among the saintes.

Gough. Let vs entreate ye to goe call
together

The rest of your sad fellowes (by the roule
Ye are iust seauen score), and tell them what
ye heare 50

A vertuous honorable lord hath doone
Euen for the meaneest follower that he had.

This writing found my ladie in his studie,
This instant morning, wherin is set downe

Eche seruants name, according to his place
And office in the house: on euery man 56

He frankly hath bestowne twentie nobles,
The best and wurst together, all alike,

Which M(aiste)r Catesbie heere forth will
pay ye.

Cate. Take it as it is meante, a kinde remem-
braunce 60

Of a farre kinder lord, with whose sad fall
He giues vp house and farewell to vs all:

Thus the fayre spreading oake falles not alone,
But all the neighbour plants and vnder-trees

Are crusht downe with his weight. No more
of this: 65

Come, and receiue your due, and after goe
Fellow-like hence, copartners of one woe.

[*Exeunt.*

(SCENE III.—The Tower.)

*Enter Sir Thomas Moore, the Lieutenant, and
a Seruant attending, as in his chamber in
the Tower.*

Moore. M(aiste)r Lieutenant, is the warrant
come?

If it be so, a Gods name, let vs knowe it.

Lieu. My lord, it is.

Scene III, *add.* II 2 see deleted in MS. before knowe

Scene II, *add.* H 8 it deleted after send in MS.

- Moore.* Tis welcome, sir, to me with all my hart;
His blessed will be doone! 5
Lieu. Your wisdom, sir, hath bin so well approou'de,
And your fayre pacience in imprisonment
Hath euer shewne such constancie of minde
And Christian resolution in all troubles,
As warrant vs you are not vnpreparde. 10
Moore. No, M(aiste)r Lieutenant;
I thanke my God, I haue peace of conscience,
Though the world and I are at a little oddes:
But wee be euen now, I hope, ere long.
When is the execution of your warrant? 15
Lieu. To morrow morning.
Moore. So, sir, I thanke ye;
I haue not liu'd so ill, I feare to dye.
M(aiste)r Lieutenant, I haue had a sore fitt of
the stone to night; but the king hath sent me
such a rare receipte, I thank him, as I shall
not need to feare it much. 22
Lieu. In life and death still merie Sir
Thomas Moore.
Moore. Sirra fellowe, reache me the vrinall:
[*Hee giues it him.*]
Ha! let me see (there's) grauell in the water;
(And yet I see no grave danger in that) 26
The man were likely to liue long enoughe,
So please the king.—Heere, fellowe, take it.
Ser. Shall I goe with it to the doctor, sir?
Moore. No, saue thy labour; weele cossen
him of a fee: 30
Thou shalt see me take a dramme to morrowe
morning,
Shall cure the stone, I warrant; doubt it not.—
M(aiste)r Lieutenant, what newes of my Lord
of Rochester?
Lieu. Yesterday morning was he put to
death.
Moore. The peace of soule sleepe with him!
He was a learned and a reuerend prelate, 36
And a riche man, beleue me.
Lieu. If he were riche, what is Sir Thomas
Moore,
That all this while hath bin Lord Chauncellour?
Moore. Say ye so, M(aiste)r Lieutenant?
what doo you thinke 40
A man, that with my time had held my place,
Might purchase?
Lieu. Perhaps, my lord, two thousand
pound a yeare.
Moore. M(aiste)r Lieutenant, I protest to
you,
I neuer had the meanes in all my life 45
To purchase one poore hundred pound a yeare:
25, 26 Bracketed words odd. H: MS. illegible 39
Word deleted in MS. before Lord
- I thinke I am the poorest Chauncellour
That euer was in England, though I could
wishe,
For credit of the place, that my estate were
better.
Lieu. Its very straunge. 50
Moore. It will be found as true.
I thinke, sir, that with moste parte of my
coyne
I haue purchased as straunge commodities
As euer you heard tell of in your life.
Lieu. Commodities, my lord! 55
Might I (without offence) enquire of them?
Moore. Croutches, M(aiste)r Lieutenant,
and bare cloakes;
For halting soldiours and poore needie schollers
Haue had my gettings in the Chauncerie:
To thinke but what a cheate the crowne shall
haue 60
By my attaindour! I prethee, if thou beest
a gentleman,
Get but a copie of my inuentorie.
That parte of poett that was giuen me
Made me a very vnthrift;
For this is the disease attends vs all, 65
Poets were neuer thriftie, neuer shall.
- Enter Lady Moore mourning, Daughters,
M(aiste)r Roper.*
Lieu. Oh, noble Moore!—
My lord, your wife, your sonne in lawe, and
daughters.
Moore. Sonne Roper, welcome;—welcome,
wife, and girles. 69
Why doo you weepe? because I liue at ease?
Did you not see, when I was Chauncellour,
I was so clogde with suters euery houre,
I could not sleepe, nor dine, nor suppe in
quiet?
Heer's none of this; heere I can sit and talke
With my honest keeper halfe a day together,
Laugh and be merie: why, then, should you
weepe? 76
Ro. These teares, my lord, for this your long
restraint
Hope had dried vp, with comfort that we yet,
Although imprisond, might haue had your life.
Moore. To liue in prison, what a life were
that! 80
The king (I thanke him) looues me more then
so.
To morrowe I shall be at libertie
To goe euen whether I can,
After I haue dispatche my busines.
Lady. Ah, husband, husband, yet submit
yourselfe! 85
Haue care of your poore wife and children.

Moore. Wife, so I haue; and I doo leaue you all
To his protection hath the power to keepe you
Safer then I can,—

The father of the widdowe and the orphan.

Ro. The world, my lord, hath euer held you wise; 91

And't shall be no distaste vnto your wisdom, e,
To yeeld to the oppinion of the state.

Moore. I haue deceiue mysselfe, I must acknowledge;

And, as you say, sonne Roper, to confesse the same, 95

It will be no disparagement at all.

Lady. His highnesse shall be certefied therof [Offering to departe.

Immediatly.

Moore. Nay, heare me, wife; first let me tell ye how:

I thought to haue had a barber for my beard;
Now, I remember, that were labour lost, 101
The headsmen now shall cut off head and all.

Ro. Wife. Father, his maiestie, vpon your meeke submission,

Will yet (they say) receiue you to his grace
In as great credit as you were before. 105

Moore.
Has appoynted me to doo a little busines.
If that were past, my girle, thou then shouldst see

What I would say to him about that matter;
But I shall be so busie vntill then, 110
I shall not tend it.

Daugh. Ah, my deare father!

Lady. Deare lord and husband!

Moore. Be comforted, good wife, to liue and looue my children;

For with thee leaue I all my care of them.—
Sonne Roper, for my sake that haue loou'd thee well, 116

And for her vertues sake, cherishe my childe.—
Girle, be not proude, but of thy husbands looue;

Euer retaine thy vertuous modestie;
That modestie is such a comely garment 120
As it is neuer out of fashion, sits as faire
Vpon the meaner woman as the emprise;
No stufte that golde can buye is halfe so riche,

Nor ornament that so becomes a woman.
Liue all and looue together, and therby 125
You giue your father a riche obsequye.

Both Daugh. Your blessing, deare father.

100 had *deleted before thought in MS.* 106 Nay, He, whom I've tried faithfully to serve, *add. H: MS. illegible* 121 fashion] fashis *MS.* sits *MS.*: fits *Dyce*

Moore. I must be gon—God blesse you!—
To talke with God, who now dooth call.

Lady. A, my deare husband! 130

Moore. Sweet wife, good night, good night:
God send vs all his euerlasting light!

Ro. I thinke, before this houre,
More heauie harts nere parted in the Tower. [Exeunt.

(SCENE IV.—Tower Hill.)

Enter the Sherifes of London and their Officers at one doore, the Warders with their halberds at another.

2 *Sher.* Officers, what time of day ist?

Offi. Almoste eight a clock.

2 *Sher.* We must make (haste) then, least we stay to long.

2 *Ward.* Good morrowe, M(aiste)r Shreeues of London; M(aiste)r Lieutenant

Willes ye repaire to the limits of the Tower, 5
There to receiue your prisoner.

1 *Sher.* Goe back, and tell his woorship we are readie.

2 *Sher.* Goe bid the officers make cleare the way,

There may be passage for the prisoner.

Enter Lieutenant and his Guard, with Moore.

Moore. Yet, God be thanked, heer's a faire day toward, 11

To take our iourney in. M(aiste)r Lieutenant, It were faire walking on the Tower leades.

Lieu. And so it might haue likte my soueraigne lord,

I would to God you might haue walkte there still! [He weepes.

Moore. Sir, we are walking to a better place. Oh, sir, your kinde and loouing teares 16

Are like sweete odours to embalme your freend!

Thanke your good lady; since I was your guest, She, has made me a very wanton, in good sooth.

Lieu. Oh, I had hope we should not yet haue parted! 20

Moore. But I must leaue ye for a little while: Within an houre or two you may looke for me;

But there will be so many come to see me, That I shall be so proude, I will not speake; And, sure, my memorie is growne so ill, 25
I feare I shall forget my head behinde me.

Lieu. God and his blessed angelles be about ye!—

Scene IV. etc. *add. H* 3 haste *add. Dyce* 7 1 Sher. *add. Dyce*: 2 Sher. *MS.* 10 heer's *Dyce*: hee's *MS.*

Heere, M(aiste)r Shreeues, receiue your prisoner.

Moore. Good morrowe, M(aiste)r Shreeues of London, to ye bothe:

I thanke ye that ye will vouchsafe to meete me;

I see by this you haue not quite forgot

That I was in times past, as you are now,

A sheriffe of London.

2 Sher. Sir, then you knowe our dutie dooth require it.

Moore. I knowe it well, sir, else I would haue bin glad

You might haue sau'de a labour at this time.

Ah, M(aiste)r Sheriffe, you and I haue bin of olde acquaintance! you were a pacient auditor of mine, when I read the diuinitie lecture at St. Lauraunces.

2 Sher. Sir Thomas Moore, I haue heard you oft,

As many other did, to our great comforte.

Moore. Pray God, you may so now, with all my hart!

And, as I call to minde,

When I studied the lawe in Lincolnes Inne, I was of counsell with ye in a cause.

2 Sher. I was about to say so, good Sir Thomas.

Moore. Oh, is this the place?

I promise ye, it is a goodly scaffold:

In sooth, I am come about a headlesse arrand, For I haue not much to say, now I am heere.

Well, let's ascend, a Gods name:

In troth, me thinkes, your stayre is somewhat weake;

I prethee, honest freend, lend me thy hand

To help me vp; as for my comming downe, Let me alone, Ile looke to that myselfe.

[As he is going vp the stayres, enters the Earles of Surrye and Shrewsburie.

My Lords of Surrey and of Shrewesburie, giue me your hands. Yet before we . . . ye see, though it pleaseth the king to raise me thus high, yet I am not p(roud), for the higher I mounte, the better I can see my freends about me. I am now (on a) farre voyage, and this straunge wooden horse must beare me thether; yet (I per)ceiue by your looks you like my bargaine so ill, that ther's not one of ye all dare venter with me. Truly, heers a moste sweet gallerie; [Walking] I like the ayre of it better then my garden at Chelsey. By your pacience, good people, that haue

prest thus into my bedchamber, if youle not trouble me, Ile take a sound sleepe heere. 72
Shrew. My lord, twere good you'd publishe to the worlde

Your great offence vnto his maiestie.

Moore. My lord, Ile bequeathe this legacie to the hangman, [Giues him his gowne] and doo it instantly. I confesse, his maiestie hath bin euer good to me; and my offence to his highnesse makes me of a state pleader a stage player (though I am olde, and haue a bad voyce), to act this last sceane of my tragedie. Ile send him (for my trespasse) a reuerend head, somewhat balde; for it is not requisite any head should stand couerd to so high maiestie: if that content him not, because I thinke my bodie will then do me small pleasure, let him but burie it, and take it. 87

Sur. My lord, my lord, holde conference with your soule;

You see, my lord, the time of life is short.

Moore. I see it, my good lord; I dispatchte that busines the last night. I come hether only to be let blood; my doctor heere telles me it is good for the headache. 93

Hang. I beseeche ye, my lord, forgiue me!

Moore. Forgiue thee, honest fellowe! why?

Hang. For your death, my lord.

Moore. O, my death? I had rather it were in thy power to forgiue me, for thou hast the sharpest action against me; the lawe, my honest freend, lyes in thy hands now: hers thy fee [His pursse]; and, my good fellowe, let my suite be dispatchte presently; for tis all one payne, to dye a lingering death, and to lue in the continuall mill of a lawe suite. But I can tell thee, my neck is so short, that, if thou shouldst behead an hundred noblemen like myselfe, thou wouldst nere get credit by it; therefore (looke ye, sir), doo it hansomely, or, of my woord, thou shalt neuer deale with me heerafter. 110

Hang. Ile take an order for that, my lord.

Moore. One thing more; take heed thou cutst not off my beard: oh, I forgot; execution past vpon that last night, and the bodie of it lies buried in the Tower.—Stay; ist not possible to make a scape from all this strong guard? it is. 117

There is a thing within me, that will raise And eleuate my better parte boue sight

Of these same weaker eyes: and, M(aiste)r Shreeues,

For all this troupe of steele that tends mydeath,

48 MS. illegible 59 mount add. H: MS. illegible
61 p(roud) Dyce 63 on a add. Dyce 65 (I per)-
ceiue Dyce

79 highnesse substituted for a deleted word, probably maiestie 115 ff. For earlier version of this passage cf. Appendix

I shall breake from you, and flye vp to heauen.
Lets seeke the meanes for this.

Hang. My lord, I pray ye, put off your doublet.

Moore. Speake not so coldely to me; I am hoarse alreadie; 125

I would be lothe, good fellowe, to take more.

Point me the block; I nere was heere before.

Hang. To the easte side, my lord.

Moore. Then to the easte

We goe to sigh; that ore, to sleepe in rest. 130

Heere Moore forsakes all mirth; good reason why;

The foole of fleshe must with her fraile life dye.

No eye salute my trunck with a sad teare:

Our birthe to heauen should be thus, voide of feare. [*Exit (with Hangman, &c.)*]

Sur. A very learned woorthie gentleman Seales errorr with his blood. Come, wee to courte. 136

Lets sadly hence to perfect vnkowne fates,
Whilste he tends prograce to the state of states.

FINIS.

APPENDIX TO SIR THOMAS MORE

FIRST DRAFT OF III. ii. 23 ff.

A table beeing couered with a greene carpet, a state cushion on it, and the Purse and Mace lying thereon, enter Sir Thomas Moore, and his man Randall with him, attyred like him.

'This must be newe written.'¹

Moore. Come on, sir: are you readie?

Ran. Yes, my lord, I stand but vpon a fewe pointes; I shall haue doone presently. Is it your honors pleasure that I should growe proude now? 5

Moore. I, I must haue thee proude, or else thou'lt nere

Be nere allyed to greatnesse. Obserue me, sir. The learned clarke Erasmus is arriu'de

Within our Englishe courte: this day, I heare, 9

He feasteth with an Englishe honoured poett, The Earle of Surrey; and I knowe this night The famous clarke of Roterdame will visite Sir Thomas Moore. Therefore, sir, acting parte,

There take my place, furnisht with purse and mace:

Ile see if great Erasmus can distinguishe 15
Merit and outward ceremonie. Obserue me, sirra:

Ile be thy glasse, dresse thy behaiour According to my cariage; but beware Thou talke not ouermuch, for twill betray thee:

Who prates not oft seemes wise; his witt fewe scan, 20

Whilste the tounge blabs tales of th' imperfect man.

¹ This . . written *add. Tylney*

Ran. I conceiue your lordship, and haue learnde your shift

So well that I must needes be apprehensiuie.

[*The waites playes within.*]

Moore. This musique telles vs that the earle is come

With learnde Erasmus. Now, my Lord Chauncellour— 25

The rest is pasted over.

FIRST DRAFT OF III. ii. 91 ff.

Me thinkes this straunge and ruffinlike disguise

Fits not the follower of a secretarie.

Faulk. My lord, I weare my haire vpon a vow.

Shrew. But for no penance of your sinnes, I feare. 5

Sur. No, hees no haire-clothman, though he weare haire.

Moore. Faulkener, how long ist since you cutt your locks?

Faulk. Three yeares, my lord.

Moore. How long wilt be before your vow expire?

Faulk. As many yeares as since my haire was cut. 11

Moore. Sure, vowes are holy things, if they be made

To good intent; and, sir, you shall not say,

You were compelde by me to breake your vowe;

But till the expiration of the same, 15

Because I will not haue ye walke the streetes For euery man to stand and wunder at, I will committ ye prisoner vnto Newgate,

Except meane time your conscience giue you
leau

To dispense with the long vow that you haue
made.— 20

Away with him!

Sur. A cell moste meete for such a votarie.

Faulk. Well, sir, and I may perhaps be
bailde er't be long, and yet weare my haire.

[They lead him out.]

Moore. And, M(aiste)r Sheriff of London,
Heere in his highnesse name we giue you
charge 26

Continuall watche be kept throughout the
cittie,

For the suppressing of these mutinies;
And, if hereafter any that belong

Either to my Lord of Winchester or Elie 30

Doo come into your cittie with a weapon,

Or aboue two of either faction

Shall be seene walking in the streetes together,

Or meete in tauerne or in ordinarie,

They be committed presently to prison. 35

Sur. And cause to be proclaime'd about the
cittie,

That no man whatsoever, that belongs

Either to my Lord of Winchester or Elie,

Doo walke without the liurie of his lord,

Either in cloke or any other garment, 40

That notice may be taken of the offenders.

*Enter M(aiste)r Morris, and ex. Sherif
and the rest.*

Moris. God saue your honor, my Lord
Chauncellour!

Moore. Welcome, M(aiste)r Morris: what
newes, sir?

Moris. I come moste humbly to entreate
your honor

In the behalfe of a poore man of mine. 45

Moore. What! the votarie that will not cut
his haire,

Vntill the expiration of his vow?

Moris. My lord, beeing sorie for his rude
behaviour,

He hath cut his haire, and dooth conforme
himselfe

. in his attire. 50
The rest is pasted over.

FIRST DRAFT OF IV. i. 330 ff.

[More.] Lord Maier and ladies, and the
rest, be patiente;

The state hathe sent, and I must nedes be
gone:

But frolicque on.—Lead on theare.—What
seekst thou, fellow?

[Wit.] Your lordship sent vs 8 angills by

your man, and I haue loste one heare amongst
the rishes. 6

[More.] 8 angills! whoo dilliuerd yt? I sent
them ten.

[S. Man.] I, my lord, dilliuerd yt: anon they
shall haue too more.

[Wit.] Thats more then we hard before, my
lord.

[More.] Am I a man of righte and equetie,
Equallie to deuide true righte his owne, 11

And shall I haue diseauers in my house?—

Goe pull the cote ouer the varlets eares:

Ther ar too many suche; ile make them fuer
by one.

Giue them ther dewe. Lead one, awaye.—

Come, fellowes, goe with me. 16

LATER DRAFT OF IV. v. 68 ff.

Moore. Now will I speake like man in
melancholy;

For, if greefes power could with her sharpest
darts

Pierce my firme bosome, heres sufficient cause

To take my farewell of mirths hurtles lawes.

Poore humbled lady, thou that wert of late 5

Placde with the noblest women of the land,

Invited to their angell companies,

Seeming a bright starre in the courtly sphere,

Why shouldst thou, like a widow, sit thus low,

And all thy faire consorts moove from the
clouds 10

That ouerdreep thy beautie and thy worth?

Ile tell thee the true cause: the court, like

Heauen,

Examines not the anger of the prince,

And being more fraile, composes of guilded
earth,

Shines vpon them on whom the king doth
shine, 15

Smiles if he smile, declines if he decline;

Yet, seeing both are mortall, court and king,

Shed not one teare for any earthly thing;

For, so God pardon me, in my saddest hower

Thou hast no more occasion to lament, 20

Nor these, nor those, my exile from the court,

No, nor this bodyes tortur, wert imposde,

(As commonly disgraces of great men

Are the forewarnings of a hastie death,)

Than to behold me after many a toyle 25

Honord with endlesse rest. Perchance the
king,

Seeing the court is full of vanitie,

8 heauen of ~~deleted before~~ courtly 10 shun ~~de-~~

~~leted before~~ moove 13 kinge ~~deleted before~~ prince

15 king ~~substituted for original~~ prince 19 in ~~in-~~

~~serted above the line.~~ The metre would be better without

it. 21 my mortall d ~~deleted after~~ these, nor 25

Beleeue me ~~deleted before~~ Than

Has pittie least our soules shuld be misled,
And sends vs to a life contemplatiue.
O happy banishment from worldly pride, 30
When soules by priuate life are sanctified!

Wife. O, but I feare some plot against your
life!

Moore. Why, then, tis thus; the king, of his
high grace,

Seeing my faithfull seruice to his state,
Intends to send me to the King of Heauen 35
For a rich present; where my soule shall proue
A true remembrer of his majestie.

Come, prethee, mourne not: the worst chance
is death,

And that brings endlesse joy for fickle breath.

Wife. Ah, but your children! 40

Moore. Tush, let them alone:

Say they be stript from this poore painted
cloth,

This outside of the earth, left houselesse, bare,
They haue mindes instructed how to gather
more; 44

Theres no man thats ingenuous can be poore:
And therefore doo not weep, my little ones,
Though you loose all the earth; keep your
soules euen,

And you shall finde inheritance in heauen. 48
But for my seruants, theres my cheefest care.
Come hether, faithfull steward: be not greeude
That in thy person I discharge both thee
And all thy other fellow officers,
For my great master hath discharged mee.

If thou by seruing me hast sufferd losse,
Then benefit thyselfe by leauing mee. 55

36 if soules *deleted after where* 38, since *deleted*
after mourne 39 *An illegible word originally written*
for brings 43 *what have they deleted before*
left 47 *all deleted before you* 50 *In you I deleted*
before Come 53 *After this line the following line*
has been deleted: So for the rest my Gentlemen and y.

I hope thou hast not; for such times as
theese

Bring gaine to officers, whoeuer leese:
Great lords haue onely name; but, in the fall,
Lord Spend-all's stuart's master, gathers all.
But I suspect not thee: admit thou hast, 60

Its good the seruants saue when masters wast.
But you, poore gentlemen, that had no place
T'inrich yourselues but by loathd briberie,
Which I abhord, and neuer found you loude,
Thinke, when an oake fals, vnderwood shrinkes
downe, 65

And yet may liue, though brused: I pray ye,
striue

To shun my ruin; for the ax is set
Euen at my root, to fell me to the ground:
The best I can doo to prefer you all

With my meane store, expect; for Heauen can
tell 70

That Moore loues all his followers more than
well.

FIRST DRAFT OF V. iv. 115 ff.

Come, let's to the block.

Hang. My lord, I pray ye, put off your
doublet.

Moore. No, my good freend, I haue a great
colde already, and I would be lothe to take
more. Point me meete the block, for I was
nere heere before.

Hang. To the easte side, my lord.

Moore. Then to the easte:

We goe to sighe; that ore, to sleep in rest.
No eye salute my trunck with a sad teare:
Our birth to heauen should be thus, voyde of
feare. [Exit.]

58 the] their *originally*: last two letters *deleted*
59 Sir [?] *deleted before Lord* 69 is [?] *deleted after*
ull

NOTES

ARDEN OF FEVERSHAM

ACT I

50. *as securely*: WP explain, 'as if thou wert quite secure,' which may be the meaning; but cf. *As unsuspected*, II. ii. 212, and Abbott, *Shakespearean Grammar*, § 115.

60. *Ovidlike*: cf. Amor. Bk. I. 13. The Elegies of Ovid had been translated by Marlowe.

121. *thou wert* is here to be read as one syllable. Such slurring is very common in this play. Cf. in the first Act: *you* are 146; *here is* 148; *Ales* 206, 508, 577, 591; *leave it* 247.

158. The pause in this line takes the place of one syllable. Cf. line 474, &c.

174. *Bolton*: this, according to Donne, is, 'Boughton, looking down on Canterbury.' Jacob's conjecture *Bocton* may well be correct. This Boughton, or Bocton, is the *Boughton vnder Blee* mentioned by Chaucer at the beginning of the *Canon's Yeoman's Prologue*.

178. After this line Tyrrell inserts: *Scene II. Before Arden's House. Enter Alice from the House, meeting Mosbie.*

182. *daies*: adverbial genitive of time. So in *Troilus and Cressida*, IV. v. 12, 'Tis but early days. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Day* 1. b, and Kellner, *Historical Outlines of English Syntax*, § 185.

226. *for* = 'to prevent'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *For* 23. d.

244. A so-called nine-syllable line; the first foot consists of *Feare* alone. Cf. III. ii. 7, &c.

279. *makes*: this M.E. northern present plural in -s occurs repeatedly in Elizabethan literature. Cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* §§ 332, 333.

313. *statute*: '37 Edward III. c. 9,' Bullen.

314. *that I doo*: for the very common omission of the relative in such cases cf. Kellner, l. c. § 109; Abbott, § 244.

361. After this line Tyrrell inserts: *Scene III. Room in Arden's House, as before. Enter Arden, Franklin, Mosbie, Michael, and Alice.*

384. *Methridate*: a general antidote against poison, &c. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Mithridate*.

427. *populos*: in the introduction to his edition of *The Birth of Merlin* (Vorrede xvii. note) Delius retracts his conjecture of *palpable* for *populos*, quoting Webster's *Appius and Virginia*, ed. Dyce, vol. II, p. 261:

he I plead for

Has power to make your beauty populous.

524. *wager* seems to have here the meaning 'pay wages to'. *Wage* is frequently used in this sense.

539. Tyrrell begins Act II with this line.

545. *faire* is here to be pronounced in two syllables. Such lengthenings are very frequent with words containing liquids or nasals. Some-

times the difference in the number of syllables is indicated by the spelling, as in *coysterel*, III. ii. 59, beside *coistrell*, III. ii. 41.

ACT II

i. 58. *all to torne*: 'torn to pieces'. The O.E. prefix *to-* corresponds in such cases to *zer-* in N.H.G. *zerissen*. Cf. Sweet, *New Eng. Grammar*, § 1579; Abbott, § 436.

66. *Tapsters head of the Lyon* = 'head of the tapster of the *Lion*'; cf. *Mucedorus the kings sonne of Valentia*. For the idiom see Kellner, § 469.

ii. 53. *ould*: great; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Old* a. 6. 127. *what*: something; the O.E. indefinite *hwæt*.

200. Read: *choll'r makes me's drye's a dog*.

ACT III

i. 5. *cooch* = cause to germinate; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Couch* v.¹ 5. This line, which has never been properly explained, appears to mean that scandal mongers nourish the unripe buds of dishonour, as fast as they appear, till they sprout and grow.

73. *bolstred*: 'propped up', hence 'erect'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Bolstered*.

ii. 19. *buges*: 'bugbears'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Bug* sb.¹

47. *cockshut light*: 'twilight'; cf. N.E.D.

iii. 9. *whistly*: 'silently'; cf. Nares, *Glossary*.

13. *ill thewd*: 'evil-natured'. *Thews* referred originally to mental and moral qualities. Cf. Skeat, *Etymological Dict.* Nares quotes Spenser's 'rude, and thewed ill', *F. Q.* Bk. II. vi. 26.

46. *companye* is to be pronounced in two syllables.

iv. 21. *nor* = 'than'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Nor* conj.²

v. 17. *stary*: no satisfactory meaning or etymology for this word has been discovered, but the proposed emendation *stirry* is a very doubtful improvement.

24. *erre*: 'plough'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Ear* v.¹

51. *pathaires*: "'Pathaire" I take to be some special form of "petarre", i.e. "petard", probably used in the metaphorical sense of passionate outburst.' Gollancz, *Lamb's Specimens*, I. i. 297. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Pathaire*. The proposed emendations of Delius have nothing to support them.

vi. 9. *dagge*: 'pistol'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Dag* sb.²

70. *brooke with*: 'agree with'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Brook* v. 3. b.

ACT IV

i. 3. *pace*: 'course', 'path'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Pace* sb.¹ 4. b.

61. *lordaine*: cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Lurdan*.

108. *can asunder*: some such word as *drive* is, of course, omitted. WP strangely regard *asunder* as a verb.

ACT V

i. 24. *natches of his tales*: 'notches off his tallies'. Without the tallies the clerk would be unable to reckon his accounts or recover his debts.

78. *arming*: cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Arming* 1. b.

86. *Patient*: cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Patient* vb.

243. *for*: cf. note to i. 226.

LOCRINE

ACT I

i. 29. *strangle*: there seems no need of emendation, though I have been unable to find unexceptionable authority for *strangle* in the sense of *struggle*.

80. *Ixions ouerdaring sonne* is, of course, Peirithous, the story of whose imprisonment in Hades is well known. There seems no reason, metrical or logical, for the word *his* in this line, and we should perhaps, like Malone, omit it altogether.

170. *America*: it is hardly necessary to remark on the anachronisms in which this play particularly abounds.

ii. 21. *Asse Tom*: Steevens suggests that *Acteon* is meant.

79. *pigsney*: 'darling'; cf. N.E.D. and *Roister Doister* (ed. Manly), i. iv. 42, iii. iv. 32.

106. *capcase*: 'hand-bag'; cf. N.E.D.

ACT II

ii. 71. *gogs blew hood*: a euphemism, according to Malone, for *God's blood*.

iv. 1. *coronet*: 'company of cavalry'. The proper spelling is *cornet*. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Cornet* sb.² 4.

21. *wreake* = 'reck'.

v. The numbering of scenes in Q in the last part of this act is extraordinarily careless.

46-62. A striking illustration of the hold which the ideas of travel and exploration had on the Elizabethan imagination.

ACT III

i. 43-57. These three speeches are an instance of the tendency of the early dramatists to linger over one idea, giving it expression in several aspects from the mouths of different characters. It is a lyrical trait which finds its superlative illustration in the Lorenzo-Jessica speeches of *The Merchant of Venice* (v. i. 1-24).

54. Malone points out that Niobe was queen of Thebes, not Athens, and suggests *Amphion's*, but in this case the adjective *faire* would have little appositeness, while the small error in

mythology is surely not too great for the author of *Locrine*.

iii. 5. *by my dorth* = 'by my troth'.

iv. 52. *detract*: 'avoid'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Detract* 7.

ACT IV

i. 28-43. An ebullition of national feeling inspired doubtless by the Armada. Cf. *Richard II*, ii. i. 40 ff.

46-75. Five six-line stanzas, rhyming *a, b, a, b, c, c*. Tieck (*Alt-Eng. Theater*, vol. ii, Introduction) asserts that they are distinctly reminiscent of *Venus and Adonis*, and that they alone would prove the genuineness of the drama!

51. *platforme*: 'model'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Platform* sb. 3.

91-102. The lines form two almost regular stanzas such as those in ll. 46-75.

iv. 6. *pillowbeares*: 'pillow-cases'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Pillow-bere*.

ACT V

ii. 40. *reclames*: 'answer back'.

iv. 49. *feer*: 'mate'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Fere* sb.¹ 1.

236. *mastie*: 'mastiff'; cf. N.E.D.

269. *eight and thirte yeares*: Elizabeth entered upon the thirty-eighth year of her reign in November 1595, the year in which *Locrine* was published. As the tragedy was registered, however, on July 20, 1594, we must assume either that the poet exaggerated the length of the reign by a couple of years or, as is more probable, that these concluding lines were added for some court performance in 1595. Cf. Introduction.

EDWARD III

ACT I

i. 98. *case*: 'skin'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Case* sb.² 4.

ii. 25. *Rods*: 'inroads'; cf. Schmidt, *Sh. Lex.*

s. v. *Road*, 4.

29. *Jacks of Gymould mayle*: 'shirts of ringed mail'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Jack* sb.² 1. b and *Gim-mal* 6.

123. *niggard*: 'supply sparingly'; cf. Schmidt s. v. *Niggard* v. 2.

125. *neare*: the old comparative. Cf. Sweet, *New Eng. Gram.*, § 1048.

131-4. For a parallel conceit cf. *Love's Labour's Lost*, i. i. 77 ff.

166. *host*: 'lodge'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Host* v.² 2.

ACT II

i. 4. *racke*: 'drive before the wind'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Rack* v.¹ 1.

57. *beauties Queene* is, of course, Venus, the idea being that the countless out-queens the goddess in her own dominion. WP's emendation is indefensible.

68. The editor of the Temple edition would substitute *Tokening* for *Talking*; certainly a very bad and needless alteration.

83. The relative *Which* is to be supplied before *Contains*. Cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gram.* § 244. Capell's bad emendation in 82, in which he has been followed by modern editors, is due to his failure to note the omission of the relative.

134. *Hers* = Her bewtie: *myne* = my affection. Cf. preceding line.

255-9. Cf. *Measure for Measure*, II. iv. 43-50.

303. *peise*: 'weigh down'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Peise* v. 4.

414. *inuierd*: 'enviored', 'besieged'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Envire*.

426. *shame for shame*: the editor of the Temple edition proposes to read *shame for sin*, which, though plausible, is unnecessary.

439. *carrion* . . . *kisse*: cf. *good kissing carrion*, *Hamlet*, II. ii. 181.

451. It has often been pointed out that this is the last line of Shakespeare's 94th Sonnet. The only safe inference from the coincidence seems to be that the author of our play had seen the sonnets in MS. Cf. Meres' allusion to Shakespeare's 'sugred Sonnets among his private friends', *Palladis Tamia*, 1598.

ii. 50. *shipskin*: for the spelling *ship* = 'sheep', cf. *Mucedorus*, II. iv. 67, *shipstickes*.

68. *sweetest*: Swinburne conjectures *swift'st*.

82. *cloke it selfe on*: 'excuse itself with the pretence of'. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Cloak* v. 2.

92. The emendations of Capell seem inevitable.

99, 100. Capell's omission of *not* in 99 is hardly to be justified. There are really two questions loosely connected: 1. Shall not I, who go to conquer kings, subdue myself? 2. Shall I by failing to subdue myself be my enemies' friend?

102. *sweete*: 'sweeten'.

116. *rarieties*: rarities; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Rariety*.

136. *I will* = that I will.

142. *louing*: 'beloved'; cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 372.

147. A nine-syllable line, *So* forming the first foot: cf. III. iii. 137.

167. *packing*: 'deceptive', 'underhand'; cf. N.E.D. *Pack* v. 2 1.

195-7. The allusion seems to be particularly to Shakespeare's poem. Heywood's play, *The Rape of Lucrece*, was first printed 1608.

ACT III

i. 52. *gaine*: the reading of Q1 *game* can perhaps be justified; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Game* sb. 7.

58. *Bayardlike*: *bayard* was originally a bay horse, then a slang term for any horse; cf. N.E.D.

77. *titely*: 'ably, adroitly, soundly'; cf. Schmidt, *Sh. Lex.* s. v. *Tightly*.

148, 149. *Admirall*: 'flagship'.

iii. 1. *guide*: 'guidance'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Guide* sb. 11.

38, 39. There is no need for Capell's sweeping change, which all succeeding editors have adopted. Some such verb as *were* or *stood* is to be supplied in 39. The punctuation is that of the present editor, as that of the Qq makes nonsense.

161. *resty*: 'stiff with too much rest'; cf. *Cymbeline*, III. vi. 34, and Schmidt, *Sh. Lex.*

224. *manage*: 'conduct', 'management'; cf. Schmidt.

v. 37. Capell's conjecture, *breathe for breaketh*, is clever but unnecessary. The meaning of the passage as it stands is that, if the prince escape after this seasoning of his courage, even a life as long as Nestor's will not cause him to outlive his fame. *That* is a conjunction, depending on *those* (= such) in 36.

58. The editor of the Temple edition would like to read *clang* or *clangour* for *charge*, and *sound* for *loud*, but the change is too sweeping, and the original is far from unintelligible, though a little obscure.

75. *Whose thousands*: Capell's emendation makes sense of the nonsense of the Qq, but is not thoroughly convincing.

82. *recorde*: 'call to mind'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Record* v. 4. This is somewhat nearer the 'ductus litterarum' of the Quarto reading than Capell's *remember*.

ACT IV

i. 14. *at*: the editor of the Temple edition quotes, in support of the Quarto reading *to*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, III. i. 35; but this is not a parallel case, for *to* follows *purposeth*, a verb implying motion.

16. *That*: the Quarto reading *Yet* may arise from *Yt* (= *That*) in the author's MS.

iv. 2. *to die*: the indefinite infinitive; cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 356. The sense of the passage is: 'We have no comfort except that in dying we pay bitter earnest for a sweeter life to come.'

44, 45. *and . . . power*: 'and call it only a single whole'; this clause is parenthetical. Before *Easily* we must supply *is*.

75. *Byrttish*: 'relating to Brittany'.

99. *carping*: 'prating'; cf. N.E.D.

134. *inch-wise*: 'inch by inch'.

ix. 46. *Should*: 'Should she'. The subject, being easily understood, has been omitted. The Temple editor suggests that a line has been lost after 45.

ACT V

31. There is a break in the thought before this line. The idea is: What we assert is true, or may, &c.

97. *Brittaine*: 'Brittany'.

MUCEDORUS

Dramatis Personae. *Eight persons may easily play it*. From these words we may infer that

the comedy was destined by the publishers particularly for companies of humble pretensions, such as that which performed it at Witney in 1653. Cf. Introduction.

Induction, 15. *Bellonas*: we should expect rather the name of Thalia, muse of comedy, but the error is doubtless that of the author.

54 ff. According to tradition, the accident at Witney occurred while these ominous words were being spoken. Cf. Introduction.

68. *I force it not*: 'I reckon not of it'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Force* v.¹ 14.

79. *proue to*: 'turn to'. *their* refers to the actors; cf. l. 71.

ACT I

iv. 2. *as then*: 'then'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *As* 34.

67, 68. *you know no bodie, and you knowe not mee*: a proverbial saying; cf. Heywood's play, *If you Know not Me, you Know Nobody*, 1605.

ACT II

i. 16. *atowe of*: 'approve of'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Allow* v. 2. b.

iv. 68. *shipstickes*: 'sheepsticks', 'hurdles'.

ACT III

i. 93. *No longer loue*: 'When I no longer love'.

iii. 49. *say*: 'essay', 'try'; cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 460.

iv. 4. *a world*: 'a wonder'. Cf. *Much Ado*, III. v. 38; *Taming of the Shrew*, II. i. 305; and Schmidt, *Sh. Lex.*

ACT IV

i. 6. *are agrees* with the predicate *embers*.

8. *sight*: 'quality of being seen'.

25. *what*: 'that of which'.

iii. 2. The probable meaning of this difficult line is: 'I consider the gloomy character of the woods to be in keeping with Bremo's cruelty.' *like* is an adjective. The entire speech is an aside.

18, 19. *loue should limit life*, &c.: the meaning seems to be, 'Love should put an end to life rather than be made a murderer of the loved object.' *him selfe* refers to *loue*, personified in the beloved person.

87. *Waying*: 'considering', 'contrasting'. Tyrrell's explanation, *abandoning*, is obviously a guess.

99. *or fight or els*: 'either fight or else'.

ACT V

i. 170. The change of *it* to *her* is not necessary. The antecedent of *it* is *kingdome* in 169. Segasto is thinking rather of the kingdom he might have inherited through Amadine than of the lady herself.

172. *barnes doore* appears to have been used as an epithet for a lubberly, spiritless rustic;

it is applied here, of course, to Segasto. Mouse's local pride is hurt that one born within his father's constabulary dominion should bear himself so meanly.

ii. 51. *farre*: 'far-fetched', 'remote'.

69. *his onely*: 'of him alone', *his* being here the true genitive singular of the personal pronoun.

98. *Prepared welcomes*: 'welcomes already prepared', alluding to the wish just expressed in 92, 93.

Epilogue. The two versions of the Epilogue with their fulsome praise of Elizabeth and James respectively furnish a somewhat melancholy illustration of the dependence of the players on court patronage. The later version is of particular interest as it shows that *Mucedorus* was presented as a peace offering after some other of the company's performances had incurred royal displeasure.

59, 60: an allusion to the fashion of afternoon representations.

SIR JOHN OLDCASTLE

Prologue, 6, 7. An allusion to Shakespeare's Falstaff, originally called Oldcastle. Malone thinks this play written after the representation of the first part of Henry IV and before that of the second part. That the slight sketch of Oldcastle-Falstaff in the *Famous Victories* is not meant is shown by direct references to Falstaff in III. iv.

ACT I

i. 9. *O yes*: 'Oyez', the customary cry to demand attention.

10. *Cossone*: 'gossoon'; N.E.D. records no instance of this word before 1684.

14. *pye Cosse plut*: 'by God's blood'.

127. *There be*: 'that there be'; cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 311.

ii. 50. *remember*: 'remind'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Remember* v.¹ 7.

103. *brabbling*: 'quarrelsome'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Brabbling*.

117. *the Arches*: the court of Arches, the seat of ecclesiastical justice, was so called from being held originally in the church Sancta Maria de Arcubus.

158. *ruddrks*: literally 'robin redbreasts'; hence a cant term for golden coins. Cf. Nares s. v. *Ruddocks*.

161. *olde huddle and twang*: *huddle* is defined (N.E.D.) to be a 'miserly old person'; *twang* perhaps means a snivelling hypocrite. It appears not to be in the dictionaries.

iii. 12. *ceased*: 'assessed'; cf. Abbott, § 460, for the general principle of verbal abbreviation in Elizabethan English.

35. *Your backes*: the adornment of your backs; *the diuell and pride* is perhaps parenthetical.

ACT II

i. 31. *In good time*: à la bonne heure!
179. *by the mack*: an unmeaning exclamation suggested by *by Mary* or *by the Mass*. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Mack* sb.²

185. *ingle*: 'cajole'; cf. N.E.D.

188. *feak*: 'beat'. It is unnecessary to adopt the commoner *ferke* from Q 2; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Feak* v.¹

229. *lion of Cotswold*: 'ram', according to Stevens, the Cotswolds being famous for sheep raising. Malone conjectured improbably that the epithet refers to the Cotswold athletic games. Cf. *Roister Doister*, iv. vi. 39.

ii. 4. *God dild ye*: 'God ild (yield, reward) you'; cf. *Gammer Gurton's Needle*, v. ii. 62; *As You Like It*, iii. iii. 81.

46. *Come to me there*: 'answer me that'.

118. *axetree*: *axetree* of Q 2, &c. is an unnecessary change, *axetree* being the native O.E. form. Cf. N.E.D.

iii. 40. *fact*: criminal act, as very often in Elizabethan English. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Fact* 1. c.

ACT III

i. 30. *Harry the first*: Malone, influenced perhaps by the obvious error of *first* for *fifth* in line 24, substitutes *Harry the fourth*, but this is hardly justifiable, for Cambridge is thinking rather of Henry Bolingbroke's relation to his son than of his place in the succession of English kings.

67. *absolute*: here used in its common sense of *perfect*.

68-71. The construction is very loose and elliptical, the subject changing in the course of the sentence from *life* to the general idea of Oldcastle's disgrace at court. There is doubtless no need to adopt Malone's emendation of *life* for *life's*, a change which after all does little to smoothe the syntax.

89. *Cowling*: Cobham's residence.

173. *Scan Who hath* as one syllable.

ii. 6. *Dunne is the mouse*: a very common saying not satisfactorily explained. Cf. *London Prodigal*, iv. i. 16, 17; *Romeo and Juliet*, i. iv. 40; and N.E.D. s. v. *Dun*. The meaning may be that the mouse's dun colour is not to be changed; that is, that present conditions cannot be helped.

15. *brave*: 'bravely attired'.

106. *boikin*: an affectionate diminutive of *boy*.

iii. 22, 23. *merely*: 'merrily'.

iv. 139. *bower*: I have adopted Malone's conjecture for the *beuer* of Qq, Ff, because of the phrase *reuel in our bower*, v. ii. 56. Sir John is much given to repetition. *Bever*, which, as Stevens points out, means a luncheon before dinner, is quite possible. Cf. *Doctor Faustus*, sc. vi, speech of Gluttony; Ford, *Love's Sacrifice*, i. ii; and N.E.D. s. v. *Bever* sb. 3.

ACT IV

i. 43. *Passage*: Nares and N.E.D. quote as follows from Cotton, *Compl. Gamester*, 1680: 'Passage is a Game at dice to be played at but by two, and it is performed with three Dice. The Caster throws continually till he hath thrown Dubblets under ten, and then he is out and loseth; or Dubblets above ten, and then he passeth and wins.'

iii. Simms's insertion of scene v. i between iv. ii and iv. iii has at first sight much to recommend it, as it would save us a provoking and inartistic interruption of the catastrophe after it has already begun, and would make it possible to assume, as Malone and all modern editors do, that Cobham is present in the scene. The notes of time, however, make it quite impossible to place v. i before iv. iii, for in the former scene we are told of the king that 'this day . . . he will aboard . . . and set away for France' (ll. 14, 15), whereas in iv. iii we are told that he 'at Southampton doth repose this night' (l. 72).

30. *laid*: 'waylaid', 'watched'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Lay* v.¹ 18. c.

iii. 159. *the sickemans salve*: a devotional work by Thomas Becon, published 1561. Cf. *Eastward Hoe* (*Belles Lettres* ed.), v. ii. 72.

168. *Owleglass*: the adventures of the wandering clown known in Germany as *Till Eulenspiegel*.

169. *The Frier and the Boy*: an old ballad, from which Malone quotes extracts.

169. *Ellenor Rummung*: Skelton's poem 'The Tunnyng of Elynour Rummyng'.

172. *S. Margets ale*: 'water'. St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland 1069-93, was noted for her piety; she reformed the Lenten observances.

iv. 55. *for*: 'for fear of'.

ACT V

i. S. D. *A room in lord Cobham's house in Kent*: this indication of the place of the action is almost certainly wrong. There is nothing in the text to substantiate it, and the fact that the King is the same day to set sail for France combines with well-known historical fact to point to Southampton as the place of arrest of the conspirators. By no possibility could the journey from Cowling to Southampton be made before the close of the day.

15. *winds*: the reading of Q 1, *wind*, may be kept if we regard *The . . . faire* as an absolute construction: 'The wind being so fair'.

56, 57. We must understand these lines as an apostrophe to the absent Cobham.

ii. There can be no doubt of the correctness of Rowe's transposition of scenes ii-vii.

4. *nip the Bough*: cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Bung* sb.²

35. *is*: I's = I have.

41. *lefter*: perhaps a corruption of *lifter*, 'thief'; cf. N.E.D. and *James IV*, iii. ii. 49.

iii. 31. *the three horse-loues*: the name of an

H h

inn. Horses were formerly fed on loaves of coarse meal.

iv. 8. *passee*: 'care'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Pass* v. 23. v. 12. *the sheeres*: the name of an inn.

vii. 37. *capons*: Percy's conjecture of *capuls* = 'horses' is unnecessary. The First Carrier in 1 *Henry IV*, II. i was carrying turkeys.

x. 83. *thicke*: 'thicket'.

125. *strouces*: the same word probably as *strossers* in *Henry V*, III. vii. 60. Loose Irish trousers. Cf. Nares s. v. *Strossers*.

LORD CROMWELL

ACT I

i. 7. *quile*: 'noise'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Coil* sb.³ For the pronunciation cf. the seventeenth and eighteenth-century pronunciation of *boil*, *join*.

13. *strong Ale*: we have here a blending of two meanings of *Ale*: (a) the drink so called, and (b) the place where it is supplied. In III. i. 39 the word occurs in the latter sense alone. Cf. *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, II. v. 62, and N.E.D. s. v. *Ale* 2.

ii. 29. *walking*, according to Steevens, means no more than *moving*. There seems no need of emendation.

59. *He shall not here me*: Malone substituted *They* for *He*, and the alteration has been retained by subsequent editors. The reading of the Qq, however, seems clearly right. Old Cromwell is of two minds with regard to his hopeful son; his common sense bids him rebuke the latter's fantastic and impractical ambitions, even while the brilliance of the possibilities they suggest wrings from him against his better judgement the secret jubilations, which he is afraid to let Thomas perceive, lest his reckless imagination be further inflamed.

iii. 21. *day*: 'period'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Day* 11. 56. *be knowne thereof*: 'take cognizance of them' (i. e. his debts). Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Known* 2, for the meaning *informed, aware of*. Malone quotes *Othello* (III. iii. 320), *Be not known on't*.

73-6. Lines 73-5 are omitted by the Ff, Rowe, and Pope. They were restored by Malone. Line 76 is omitted by all editions since the Qq, though it is indispensable to the sense, as Friskiball replies to it in 77. The state of the text shows clearly the carelessness with which all the editions of this play have been prepared. The cause of the omissions is easily seen. In F1 the word *sell* (72) ends a page. In the bottom right-hand corner, as catch-word for the next page, *As* is indeed printed; so we should expect *As part to pay*, &c. to follow. The compositor's eye, however, has overlooked lines 73-6, beginning the next page with 77, which after 72 is obviously inappropriate. F2 followed F1 without referring to the Qq, and so the error was con-

tinued till Malone's casual collation of Q2 (of the existence of Q1 he knew only from hearsay) restored three of the four missing lines. That it should be left for the present edition to restore line 76, which common sense so obviously requires, is sufficient condemnation of Malone and his blind followers: Messrs. Simms, Tyrrell, Hazlitt, and Moltke.

97. *Portague*: a Portuguese coin worth from three to five pounds. As this sum seems rather great for Bagot's contempt in the light of his reference to a *score of crownes* (l. 107), Malone suggests that we substitute in 97 and 108 *cardecue* [quart d'ecu]. For *cardecue* cf. *Birth of Merlin*, IV. i. 15. There is no sufficient reason for the change; the poet, attracted by the sound of the word, may well have been ignorant or regardless of the precise value of a *Portague*. Cf. Nares, s. v. *Portague*.

ACT II

Chorus. 2. *Ledger*: 'commissioner' or 'agent'. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Ledger* 4.

ii. 40. *poysse*: 'weight'; cf. *peise* in *Edward III*, II. i. 503. The difference of diphthong depends on difference in the position of the accent in Old French; cf. *convoy* beside *convey*.

122. *race*: 'root'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Race* sb.⁶

iii. 105. *Stands*: 'If it stands'.

ACT III

i. 31. *it will be your owne another day*: 'you will have use for it hereafter'. Cf. *Athenaeum*, No. 2920, Oct. 13, 1883, p. 465, where parallels are quoted from *Love's Labour's Lost* (IV. i. 110), *The Tale of a Tub*, *The Witch*, and *Tu Quoque*.

77. *Florence*: the use of proper noun for adjective is very common. Cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 22, *end*; and compare *Mantua port*, III. ii. 65.

iii. 12. *his*: 'its', referring to *travell*. The observance of travel proves its value by producing a learned yet unaffected spirit.

52. *Cruill*: 'Seville'.

84. *for*: 'because'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *For* B. 1.

85. *that*, like French *que*, merely repeats the idea of the preceding conjunction *for*.

109. *leau*: 'cease'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Leave* v.¹ 10. b.

ACT IV

ii. 16. *Iwis*: O.E., German *gewiss*, 'certainly'. Malone's *I wis* is due to misunderstanding.

34. *gibber*: N.E.D. quotes this single instance of the word, but does not hazard a definition. Cf. the common phrase *jeopard a joint*, 'risk a finger', which is probably what Seelie means.

78. *sort*: 'set'; cf. Nares.

iv. S. D. *Shewer*: cf. Nares, s. v. *Sewer*.

16. *I hope*: 'which I hope'.

29. *And to repay*: 'in case I should repay'; the so-called indefinite infinitive. Cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 357.

ACT V

v. 33. *Learning* stands by personification for Gardiner; it is the subject of *doth drinke. learn-ing*=Cromwell.

104. *sound*: 'swoon'; the *d* is parasitic, as in Mod. Eng. sound [Lat. *sonum*].

131, 132. As they stand these lines are hardly intelligible, nor has any convincing emendation been suggested. Perhaps we should insert a comma after *soule*, thus making it vocative, and regard *land* as subject of *is shrinde*.

148. *whom* is to be regarded as the subject of *Will grieve*. Two constructions have been confused. Cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 410.

THE LONDON PRODIGAL

ACT I

i. 10. *exhibition*: 'allowance'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Exhibition* sb. 2.

17. *that*: 'that which'.

45-6. The expression is clumsy but the meaning is fairly plain, and there seems no cause for emendation. 'I grant that it is bad to swear, but not that it is better to keep the oaths when sworn than to break them.'

63. *attendants*: 'attendant vices'.

132. *Katern-hue*: 'Katherine-Hugh'; cf. 185-6. *Katern* exactly represents the usual Elizabethan pronunciation of *Katherine*; cf. Sweet, *New Eng. Gram.* § 833.

164-6. The dates are absolute nonsense in Q, and I have not hesitated to adopt Malone's emendations. Percy suggests that the gibberish may have been meant to pass for Spanish.

168. *Kester*: an abbreviation of *Christopher*.

170. *winde*: enclose in his winding-sheet.

218-20. Cf. Malone's note with his quotation from *The English Rogue*, ed. 1680, p. 322. High fulloms were dice so loaded as generally to show the number four, five, or six, while low fulloms, or low men, showed one, two, or three. *Stop cater traies* (quatre-trois) Malone supposes to be dice stopping usually at three and four. Cf. *Merry Wives*, i. iii. 92-3, and N.E.D. s. v. *Fulham*.

233. *fop of*: 'fob off'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Fop*, v. 2.

ii. 7. *set vp by the halues*: apparently a proverbial saying.

37. and: 'as if'. *your* is ethical.

38. *trenchmore*: a dance; cf. Nares.

39. *shuter*: 'suitor'. The identity of pronunciation between this word and *shooter* is constant matter of joke; cf. *Puritan*, ii. i. 97; *Love's Labour's Lost*, iv. i. 111-13.

77. *They may be Ladies*: i. e. by marrying knights; cf. *Eastward Hoe*, i. ii. 5.

105. *the three Tunnes*: one of the rooms in the inn.

132. *rerages*: the exact meaning is uncertain. The word may refer to old, unsaleable stock.

ACT II

i. 6-8. *zutch . . . vreens*: illustrations of the characteristic substitution of (voiced) *z*, *v* for (voiceless) *s*, *f* in the Southern dialects.

20. *chid*: I should; *ch* represents the Southern *ich*=I. So *cham*, *chill*; cf. Sweet, *New Eng. Gram.* § 1065.

36. *ruddockes*: cf. note to *Oldcastle*, i. ii. 158.

41-2. Sarcastic reference to the characteristic manufactures and dishes of Devonshire. Cf. Malone's note.

49. *cocknell*: 'cockney'; cf. N.E.D.

96. *Woodcocke*: 'dunce'; cf. Schmidt, *Sh. Lex.*, and Nares.

113. *yuine*: 'in fine'.

ii. 18. *I, I*: the first *I* is of course *Ay*.

23. *cutting*: 'swaggering'; cf. N.E.D.

iii. 5. *Knowes*: 'Who knows'.

iv. 41. *call me cut*: cf. Malone's note and N.E.D. s. v. *Cut* sb.² 2. a. The same expression occurs in *Twelfth Night*, ii. iii. 203.

51. *testorne*: the apparent meaning is 'needy'; cf. *testern*=sixpence.

ACT III

i. 52. *set downe my rest*: 'firmly resolved', 'staked my last penny'. A gaming metaphor; cf. Schmidt, *Sh. Lex.* s. v. *Rest*².

ii. 36. *thats . . . O*: 'that's an absolute lie'. The words are an aside. Malone explains, 'That is a complete and absolute truth,' but Steevens's interpretation as given above seems undoubtedly the correct one.

90. *fine*: 'end'.

103. The reference, according to Steevens, is to the slandering of Una by Abessa in the third canto of the first book of the *Faerie Queene*, but this seems very doubtful.

155. *his second*: 'his match', 'one like him'.

165. *humours*: cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Humour*, v. 3.

iii. 32. *volowten*: 'flouting', according to Malone.

163. in *hucksters handling*: 'in great straits'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Huckster* sb. 3, and Greene's *Alphonsus*, i. i. 143.

221. or . . . or: 'either . . . or', as regularly in Milton.

ACT IV

i. 15. *pricke*: the mark at archery, and hence the prize.

16-17. *done is the mouse*: cf. *Oldcastle*, iii. ii. 6.

ii. 48. *triumphant*: this word has not been satisfactorily explained. Steevens explains *triumphant life*—very improbably—as a life spent in looking for *triumphs* or trumps, while Malone would substitute for *triumphant trompant*, 'deceptive', a word which he coins from French *tromper*.

iii. 91. This line has been regarded as a sneer at Greene's *Never too Late*.

ACT V

i. 40. *stands . . . in*: 'costs'.

174. *armine*: 'a miserable creature'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Arming* sb.

249-50. *very that . . . angell* is parenthetic, explaining *habit*: just such a habit as would become him when he was about to turn to angel (die).

269. *snick vp*: cf. *Twelfth Night*, II. iii. 103, and Nares, s. v. *Sneck-up*.

THE PURITAN

It will be noted that the title of this play is given on the title-page as *The Puritaine or the Widdow of Watling-streete*, whereas the heading of the first page of text gives the abbreviated title *The Puritaine Widdow*. The inconsistency is of no importance except as explaining references to the play both as *The Puritan* and as *The Puritan Widdow*.

ACT I

i. 89. *snobbing*: 'weeping'; the primary meaning of the verb seems to be *hiccup*. Cf. Stratmann, *M. E. Dict.* s. v. *Snobben*, and Wright, *Dict. Dict.*

107. *to hot, nor to deere*: a proverbial expression = 'too difficult of attainment'. Cf. notes of Malone and Steevens. Simms proposes the unnecessary emendation *good for hot*.

132. *speake false Lattin*: 'lie'.

136-8. Malone conjectures plausibly that the thrice repeated *their* of Q for *this*, which is almost certainly correct, is due to the use of an abbreviation of familiar words were in Elizabethan cheirography is well known.

147. *Widdowers*: it would be convenient to take this word, as Malone suggests, in the sense of *widows*, but I have found no authority for such a use.

ii. 4, 5. *put to silence like a Sectarie*: a reference apparently to the silencing of the Puritans under the primacy of Archbishop Bancroft, appointed 1603.

29. *Antient*: 'ensign'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Ancient* sb.²

41, 42. *Quadrangle, Battled*: Dr. Farmer pointed out that these terms are peculiar to Oxford. Peele, the probable original of Pye-board, was educated at Broadgates Hall, Oxford, and the author of this play was most likely a member of the same university.

46-9. *a Cheese out of Iesus Colledge . . . Welshman*: this is another indication that Pye-board is alluding to Oxford, for there is no connexion between Jesus College, Cambridge, and the Welsh.

92. *and Peace*: 'if Peace'; cf. Stratmann, *M. E. Dict.* s. v. *And*².

161 *soothing*: 'flattering', 'hypocritical'.

iii. 11. *we three*: Steevens refers to *Twelfth Night*, II. iii. 16, 17, 'How now, my hearts! Did you never see the picture of "we three"?' The picture represented two men in fools' coats, the spectator making the third.

25. *drye*: cf. *dry blows*, said of blows not drawing blood. N.E.D. s. v. *Dry* a. 12.

42. *sowne*: 'swoon'.

56. *Capadochio*: 'prison'. N.E.D. gives only this instance, but cf. Heywood, 1 *King Edward IV*, ed. 1874, p. 72: 'My son's in Dybell here, in *Caperdochy*, itha gaol.'

iv. 71. *bloud*: 'hereditary dignity'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Blood* 9.

158. *Pomwater*: 'apple'; cf. *Love's Labour's Lost*, IV. ii. 4.

159. *vncomfortable*: 'unconsoling'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Comfortable* 6.

299, 300. *Beare at Bridge-Foote*: a well-known inn by London Bridge; cf. Shirley, *Lady of Pleasure*, v. ii (*Mermaid* ed., p. 342); Middleton, *No Wit, no Help, etc.*, v. i. 267-8, and Bullen's note. There is no need of altering the words in *heaven*. The Corporal jocularly confuses in his oath the well-known tavern sign and the constellation of Ursa Major, calling the latter the Bear at Bridge-Foot of heaven.

ACT II

i. 36. *enow* seems to stand for *e'en now*.

97. Cf. note to *London Prodigal*, I. ii. 39.

112. *sure*: 'betrothed'. Cf. *As You Like It*, v. iv. 142.

201. *I*: 'Ay'.

234. *sir Reuerence*: 'save-reverence'; cf. Skeat, *Etymol. Dict.*, and iv. ii. 4.

237. The spelling *guesse* for *guests* is very common and doubtless represents the pronunciation.

357. Steevens has the following interesting note: 'Here is an odd agreement between a few circumstances in the present scene, and a few others in the last act of *Othello*. I shall only point them out, without any attempt to account for them. *Pyeboard* (Iago) advises *Skirmish* (Roderigo) to wound *Oath* (Cassio). In the confusion occasioned by this attempt, *Pyeboard* (Iago again) rushes among them, and instead of giving *Oath* (Cassio again) assistance, prepares somewhat to make him seem dead. Thus Iago wounds Cassio. The cut too is given on the *leg*; and *Pyeboard* takes on him the cure, as Iago comes out and proffers to bind up Cassio's wound. Query, which of these pieces was the elder?' The *Puritan* was entered on the Stationers' Register in 1607; there is no earlier reference to it, while *Othello* was acted before Lord Ellesmere and the Queen as early as 1602.

ii. 3. *say on*: assay or try on.

ACT III

- i. 14. *praying*: 'appraising'.
 45. *links*: 'vomiting'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Cast* v. 25.
 ii. 9. *superiour*: Frailty must mean surgeon.
 72. *Links*: a play, of course, on *link* = 'torch'.
 81. *Sesarara*: according to Steevens, *Certiorari* is meant.
 88. *seauen and twenty Prouinces*: this, Percy thinks, is a mistake for the seventeen provinces of the Low Countries.
 iii. Steevens calls attention to the similarity of this scene to that in which Fang and Snare arrest Falstaff at the suit of his hostess. Cf. 2 *Henry IV*, II. i.
 110. *Puttocks*: 'vultures'; cf. *Cymbeline*, I. i. 140; 2 *Henry VI*, III. ii. 191.
 154. S. D. This stage direction is a good illustration of the simplicity of Elizabethan stage requirements. The author did not intend a change of scene.
 iv. 12. *Posts*: symbols of civic authority.
 116. *busie*: 'elaborate', 'intricate'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Busy* a. 8.
 163. *god den*: 'good e'en'. Cf. *Love's Labour's Lost*, IV. i. 42; *Gammer Gurton's Needle*, IV. iii. 5; *Yorkshire Tragedy*, II. 120; Tournear, *Revenger's Tragedy*, IV. ii (Mermaid ed., p. 405).
 190. *Sup, Simon, now*: an allusion, according to Steevens, to 'Simon of Southampton, alias Supbroth' in *Thomas of Reading, or the size worthie Yeomen of the West*, by Dekker.
 197. *hole*: one of the worst rooms in the Woodstreet Counter; cf. *Eastward Hoe* (*Belles Lettres* ed., 1904), v. ii. 56.
 v. 16, 17. *George Stone the Beare*: a famous bear at Paris Garden. Malone refers to *The Silent Woman* (III. i).
 110. *lin*: cease; cf. N.E.D.
 161, 162. *Act . . . Coniurers and Witches*: passed 1604.
 271. *simply tho I stand here*: cf. IV. ii. 74, 75, and *Merry Wives*, I. i. 226.

ACT IV

- i. 4. *dubd for nothing*: one of the innumerable references to King James's traffic in knighthoods. Cf. *Eastward Hoe* (*Belles Lettres* ed.), IV. i. 214.
 11. *Derecke* was the hangman of the period. Steevens quotes several other contemporary references to him. Cf. Stat. Reg. (ed. Arber) ult. Mar. 1606.
 36. *guarded Lackey*: one whose livery was adorned with guards or facings. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Guard* v. 7.
 37. *trashing*: cf. *trace*, *Mucedorus*, IV. iii. 30, and *Cambises* (ed. Manly), 490.
 iii. 41. *run vpon the Ropes*: take desperate risks; a metaphor from tight-rope walking.
 90, 91. *ghost . . . Table*: an allusion, as Dr. Farmer pointed out, to Banquo's ghost at the banquet. Cf. *Macbeth*, III. iv.

ACT V

- iii. 7. *squander*: cf. 'squandering glances', *As You Like It*, II. vii. 57.
 iv. 27. *mistes*: 'deceits'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Mist* sb.¹ 2. b.

A YORKSHIRE TRAGEDY

i. This scene, which, as Steevens remarks, is not necessary to the plot, has given rise to much discussion. The circumstances to which the servants allude at the beginning are made clear by reference to *The Miseries of Enforced Marriage*, by George Wilkins. Mr. P. A. Daniel (*Athenaeum*, No. 2710, Oct. 4, 1879) first pointed out that the two plays treat of the same incidents, though the *Miseries* stops practically where our play begins. The *yong Mistresse* of line 1 is the Clare Harcop of Wilkins's drama. There is some difficulty as to the servants; they would appear to belong to the same household, and yet Ralph and Oliver seem to serve the *yong Mistresse*, while Sam is certainly in Calverley's employ. The truth probably is that the author of this hasty work had not imagined very consistently the details of Calverley's previous life.

32. *capease*: cf. *Lochrine*, I. ii. 106.

62, 63. Percy's emendations, quoted by Malone, are utterly unjustified.

74, 75. *pottingsticks*: cf. Ford, *Love's Sacrifice*, IV. i. 15. The more usual spelling is *pokingstick*, as in Rowe and succeeding editors.

77, 82-3. A common proverb is alluded to. Steevens quotes from the *Stationers' Register*, 1566: 'a play intituled Farre fetched and deare bought ys good for ladies.'

78, 80. There is no sufficient reason for the alteration in the division of speeches introduced by Malone.

ii. 14. Some causal conjunction, such as *that* or *because*, is to be understood before *His*. Cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 311. Hazlitt's indefensible displacement of the line is due to failure to grasp the meaning of the passage. Steevens had already suggested that lines 14 and 13 be transposed.

101. *blood*: 'nature'; cf. IV. 74 and N.E.D.

120. *God den*: cf. *Puritan*, III. iv. 163 and note.

149. *country* is, of course, used adjectivally. Cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 22.

iii. 75. The substitution of *pleasant* for *comely* is probably the result of mere carelessness in the compositor of Q2, who unintentionally substituted for one adjective a more familiar one with the same meaning.

iv. 120. *white boie*: a term of endearment. Cf. Ford, *'Tis Pity*, I. iv (Mermaid ed., p. 114).

125, 126. The meaning is: follow a coach, crying 'Good your Honour!' to the occupant.

v. 13, 14. The reference is to Leicester and Amy Robsart. Steevens quotes an apposite passage from *Leicester's Commonwealth* (1584, &c.).

viii. 16. *bated*: the meaning is probably not *abated* or *barred*, as Malone and Steevens respectively explain it, but *tormented*, as in *bear-baiting*. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Bait* v. 1 4.

x. 22. *one thousand more*: sc. years. The reference, as Percy points out, is to *Revelation* xx. 2.

52. Some emendation is obviously required. Steevens suggests, as an alternative to the reading adopted in the text, *leave* (i.e. cease), *to part*.

THE MERRY DEVIL OF EDMONTON

Induction, 16. For the omission of *is* after *this* cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 403.

45. Mr. P. A. Daniel is in favour of adopting Q6's reading of *near* for *meane*. The change would certainly make the sense easier, but it is probably not absolutely necessary. The meaning of the line as it stands appears to be: 'which (knowledge) even when attained yet makes a man so mean in comparison with the higher powers'. Fabell laments that the soul should have to be sacrificed for the achievement of a power which when achieved is found to be relatively contemptible. For a different interpretation cf. WP.

79. *Phaetontique*: Walker reads *Phaetonic*, which he explains as relating to the sun-god, for whom *Phaethon* is an occasional epithet in Homer. Mr. Daniel informs me of Dr. Brinsley Nicholson's conjecture *Phlegethonic*, a reading which, though bold, has much to recommend it.

ACT I

i. 13. *Tartarian*: 'thief'; cf. Nares.

76, 77. These lines are doubtless the greatest crux in the play, the text of which abounds in obscurities. Fortunately, the general idea, Mouchensey's thriftlessness and extravagance, is clear. None of the suggested emendations improves the sense a whit, and it is at least possible that we have what the author wrote. If some satisfactory meaning for *simple* could be found, referring either to *hawkes* or *dogs*, all would be clear enough. *him* in 77 is, of course, the ethical dative, and the line means merely that the leanest and most worthless curs are fed on such meat as should be given only to valuable dogs.

81. *That*: 'so that'.

ii. 3. *your*: Lat. *iste*; cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 221.

14. *Gibraltar*: N.E.D. (s. v. *Gibraltar*) seems at last to have explained this puzzling word,

which it defines as 'a Gibraltar monkey', quoting in addition to the present passage the following from Harvey, *Pierce's Super.* (1592), 158: 'Cumane Asse and foole, and dolt, and idiot, and *Gibaltar*.'

36. *Coopers Dictionary*: 'Thesaurus linguae Romanae et Britannicae'. Copies of editions of 1565, 1573, 1584 are in the Bodleian.

iii. 4. *by*: there is no cause for Hazlitt's emendation *my*, which rather increases the difficulty of the passage and can be explained only as an expression of 'contemptuous familiarity'. It is quite easy to supply *He should* before *Refuse* in the next line.

38-45. The passage is slightly obscure. The sense is: Offers of assistance from any but Jerningham would seem cold to Mouchensey, because of the inability of any one else to help him; yet he could believe in the sincerity of such offers from anybody except Jerningham, who is to profit by the injustice done him. *they* in 42 has the same antecedent as *that word* in 39; both refer to the whole of Jerningham's previous speech.

52. *hudman-blind*: 'blindman's-buff'. Cf. *Hamlet*, III. iv. 77, and N.E.D. s. v. *Hoodman-blind*.

53. *him*: *her* Qq. Mr. Daniel's emendation, which common sense appears to demand; but the change of gender can perhaps be adequately explained, as WP explain it, by the change of idea from Love personified, or Cupid, to love in the abstract.

59. *in hugger-mugger*: 'recklessly'. Cf. *Hamlet*, IV. v. 84; *Revenger's Tragedy*, v. i; 'Tis Pity, III. i.

76. *busy bags*: Walker suspects a corruption. 141. *Cuts*: 'labouring horses'. Cf. 1 *Henry IV*, II. i. 6; *Twelfth Night*, II. iii. 206; *Merry Wives*, III. iv. 47; *Two Noble Kinsmen*, III. iv. 22; and N.E.D. s. v. *Cut* sb. 28.

142. *Dossers*: 'baskets'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Dosser* 2.

ACT II

i. 9, 10. *tickles* . . . *Catastrophe*: cf. v. ii. 13, 14; 2 *Henry IV*, II. i. 68.

50. *ther's not a narrow bridge*: Mr. Daniel has sent me the following note: 'I would read *there's narrow a bridge*: *never a, ne'er a*, a colloquialism to the present day. It takes the form of *narrow a, narro, narra, nary*, with or without the article. I have collected instances from Smollett, Fielding, Scott, and the *Referee* Newspaper of the present day.' Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Nary*. There seems to be no special need for change, as the quarto reading makes perfect sense.

68. *Hungarions*: a quibble on *hungry ones*; cf. IV. i. 1.

75. *bosonians*: cf. 2 *Henry IV*, v. iii. 115; 2 *Henry VI*, IV. i. 134; and N.E.D. s. v. *Bezonian*.

85. *Citizen*: Walker explains the word as 'fellow-citizen', but Sir John may mean 'paragon'.

ii. 11. *chat*: 'chatter'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Chat* sb.¹ 1.

54. *skains*: Irish knives; cf. Nares, s. v. *Skain*.

57. *soares*: WP and Walker take the word as meaning 'soaring flights', but 'sore feelings' seems much more likely. The *frowardnesse* of Q 4-6 is evidently a mere gloss inspired by *froward* (forward) two words before, and inserted because *soares* was not intelligible to the editor or printer.

82. *fadge*: 'proceed'. Cf. *Love's Labour's Lost*, v. i. 158; *Twelfth Night*, II. ii. 34; and N.E.D. s. v. *Fadge* v. 4.

87. *handful*: 'palm', measure of four inches; cf. N.E.D.

90-5. Mr. Daniel's excellent emendations make sense of what is nonsense in all other editions. I should be glad to keep the text of the quartos and rearrange the order of lines as follows: 91, 90, 93, 94, 92, 95. In this way perfect sense would be restored, but the transposition is doubtless too arbitrary. Mr. Daniel remarks: 'My great difficulty with the passage is the two last lines (94, 95). I should like to strike them out altogether, they seem to me *de trop*; but as they must remain, I should be almost tempted to transpose them (always as altered) to a place between lines 91 and 92. The passage, I feel, ought to end with *teehee weehee*.'

iii. 3. *composure* is a collective noun = 'those composed', referring, of course, to the elder Clare and Jerningham.

17. The metre would be improved by the adoption of the *Fonder* of Q 3.

21. *lesse worlds*: well defined by Walker as 'the microcosms of the disunited youth and maid'.

23-6. A difficult passage. *the breath Of all advised corruption*—that is, the voice, or command, of the personification of premeditated dishonesty—refers to old Clare and Jerningham. The sentence breaks off here, as the speaker turns to apologize to the sons: 'I must speak as I do of your fathers, and you may know I love you because I do not say that even greater malice (than "advised corruption") is the cause of our separation.' Mr. Daniel, changing *do to doth*, would regard the words *Pardon mee . . . spight* as parenthetical, and make *the breath* (23) subject of *doth seuer* (26).

ACT III

i. 28, 41, 48, 66. Mr. Daniel would transfer these speeches from Milliscent to Bilbo, but Milliscent's speech in 41 and the preceding speech of Bilbo (38-40) cannot belong to the same speaker, being separate comments, from different points of view, on what the prioress has just said (30-7).

100. *thrust . . . cushion*: 'disappoint'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Cushion* 10. c.

ii. 16. *deere*: 'inmost'.

84. This line has no authority, but it seems clear that some line or lines of similar meaning have been omitted by the quartos.

90. *a dream't*: Walker points out that this corresponds to the Chaucerian *a blakeberied*, where the final dental indicates not the past participle, but an O.E. verbal substantive in *ad*, the whole being a prepositional phrase. Cf. Skeat's note to *The Pardoner's Prologue*, 406 (Chaucer's *Man of Lawe*, &c., ed. Skeat, pp. 147, 148).

134. *vmbagd*: 'unpregnant'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Bag*.

139. *turne tippit*: 'change', used particularly of the change from unmarried to married state.

ACT IV

i. 54. *stone Priest*: cf. *Oldcastle*, II. i. 228.

ii. 51. *skinker*: 'tapster'; cf. Nares.

91. *roomer*: A nautical exclamation of doubtful meaning. Cf. Nares.

ACT V

ii. 4. WP's emendation *bauke* for *banke* seems absolutely certain.

41. *yong Iuuentus*: an allusion to the well-known moral interlude, 'Lusty Juuentus.' Cf. *Sir Thomas More*, IV. i. 174 ff.

156. *Sir Iohn*: the quartos have *Sir George*, where *Sir* (Sr.) may well stand for *Saint* (St.) as in 175. It is possible, therefore, that the host is jocularly addressing Smug, who, as we learn below (179), had played the part of Saint George during the night.

157. *noyse*: 'band'; cf. 2 *Henry IV*, II. iv. 13, *Dutch Courtezan*, II. iii, and Nares.

178, 179. The author of the play appears to have made clumsy use of one of the incidents related in Antony Brewer's prose work, 'The Life and Death of the Merry-Deuill of Edmonton. With the pleasant pranks of Smug the Smith,' &c. One of the sections of this narrative (pp. 43-6) tells how Smug, chased by the keepers for deer stealing, escaped by climbing upon the sign of the White Horse Inn, thus converting it into the George and mystifying his pursuers, who thought they saw two George Inns, where there should have been but one. This is obviously what these lines allude to, but the object of the conspirators in the play was that the knights on their return should see only one Saint George—a false one—and so be decoyed into the wrong inn. What appears from lines 114-18 to have actually happened is that Smug removed the Saint George before Blague's inn altogether and then personated the saint by seating himself upon the sign of the horse before the inn opposite. Sir Ralph's allusion to two Saint Georges in 178 must, then, be a slip.

FAIR EM

ACT I

ii. 15. *to high estate*: the emendations of Delius and Simpson are tempting, but the reading of the Qq is quite possible if we take *to* as an adverb: 'thou must humble (thy) too high estate to join it with my present one (that of miller).'

33. *staylesse of the world*: occasionally throughout this insipid play we get, as here and in line 67 gleams of the imaginative brilliance which characterize the best Elizabethan poetry.

41. *vulgars*: 'the vulgar's,' a collective noun.

iii. 35. *mislike* is a noun; the object of *finde* is *entertainment*: 'not that I find my entertainment in your grace's court a matter for displeasure.' Tyrrell, Simpson, &c. fail to see the construction.

51. The editorial method of Tyrrell is illustrated by his interpolation of *graceful* before *body* to fill out the line. The eight-syllable verse is here a marked beauty. Such irregularities as to the number of feet are particularly common in *Faire Em*.

ACT II

i. 15. *Phismicary*: Trotter appears to have blended the two words *physician* and *apothecary*.

21, 22. 'That our old relation (servant and mistress) is to end, giving place to a new one (man and wife).'

74. *I, an*: the reading of Qq *I am* may be retained, if we place a semicolon at the end of 75 and supply *I* in 76 as subject of *May*. The emendation, however, is slight and makes the sense much easier.

91. *truer loue*: this, the reading of Q2, is obviously right. The false reading of Q1 is easily explainable: the compositor has by mistake added the *r* to the second instead of the first *ue*.

betwixte is to be read 'twixt.

ii. 77. *od* (Q2 *odde*): Chetwood's reading *old* may possibly be correct, as *l* could easily have been omitted by the compositor of Q1, and Q2—in case it was not printed from Q1—could with equal ease have converted *l* of *olde* into *d*.

ACT III

i. 68. *He* for *Him* is, of course, extremely common in such cases, particularly after the like sounding correlative *Me* (67). The presence of *He* at the beginning of the line explains the omission of *he* in the Qq after *for*, whereas it is difficult to reconcile Simpson's *Him* for *he* hopes with the *He* for *hopes* of Qq.

119. *sege of Troye*: a metaphor from the long duration of the siege.

ii. 8. *loth*: all previous editors read *such* with Qq, but none attempts to explain the passage, which seems absolutely to require some such

word as *loth*. In the Elizabethan hand *loth* and *such* look much alike.

iv. 84. *Chester*: Qq read *Manchester* both here and in iv. i. S. D., but this is an evident mistake. Cf. iv. i. 4, 51, 56, and iv. iii. 61.

vi. 7, 8. The text of Qq, retained without explanation by Tyrrell and Delius, makes nonsense. That which I have adopted is based, with the change of *whether* to *tho*, on Simpson's rendering. There is a not unusual ellipse after line 6, the idea being: 'I might as well give free expression to my sorrows, for though,' &c. There seem to be two other possible interpretations of these lines—the most obscure in the play. Both require a colon after *sigh* (8), line 9 being regarded as a general summing up, '(In either case, my sorrows,' &c.: (1) We may retain *thee* instead of *tho* in 7, leaving Simpson's *or* for *for* in 8. (2) We may keep the quarto reading throughout, inserting *thee* before *silently* in 8—an insertion which, however, spoils the metre.

49. *assertained* is to be accented on the second syllable.

ACT IV

i. 14. *betake*: commend, hand over. *Betake* in this sense is really a corruption for *beteach*; cf. both words in N.E.D.

iii. 70. It is barely possible to make sense of the passage as it stands in the Qq. Delius retains the *true* inserted by Chetwood after *were*.

ACT V

i. 10. *Saxons*: cf. *King of Danes*, i. i. 53.

11. *seem*: Qq's reading *send* is probably due to the preceding *sent*.

35. This is a characteristic Elizabethan expression which requires no emendation. 'To grace his style (name) with the title of Duke of Saxony.'

93. *base and vildest*: 'basest and vilest.'

104. *importing*: it is not necessary to read *importuning*. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Import* v. 3.

114. The same line with the trifling change of *my* to *the* occurs in *The London Prodigal*, v. i. 419. Such coincidences prove nothing as to authorship.

131. *quaint*: cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Quaint* v. 2.

221 ff. Elze's rearrangement of the order of lines is rather plausible, but there seems no sufficient reason for so radical a change, and there is no sort of connexion between line 230 and 255 ff.

263. The author appears certainly to have written *Sir Edmund*, not *Sir Thomas*. Cf. i. ii. 14.

THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN

Prologue, 13. *Chaucer . . . the Story gives*: in the *Knights Tale*.

21. *Robin Hood*: the small merit of the tales concerning this worthy appears to have been

proverbial. Cf. *Piers Plowman*, B text, Passus, v. 402.

ACT I

i. 9. Skeat's emendation *hair-bells* was anticipated by a query of Simms: *Harebells*. There seems no need for the change.

16. *angle*: *Angel* F. The word is probably to be taken in its literal sense of 'messenger', meaning 'bird'. Theobald proposed *Augel* from Italian *augello*, a bird.

20. *Chough hore*: this reading, proposed by Seward, has been adopted by all editors, but is far from convincing. Charles Lamb wished to rhyme *Chough* and *Cuckoo*, deleting *nor* in 19 and ending 20 with *nor the Chough*, but this is too violent.

28. A characteristic Fletcherian line, though the scene as a whole is certainly not Fletcher's.

105. *blood eizd*: 'blood-covered'. Cf. *Hamlet*, ii. 493, 'o'er-sized with coagulate gore.'

121, 122. The meaning is a little obscure, the flow of the sentence being broken intentionally. The second *there* ought to be accompanied by a gesture toward the eyes; it is contrasted with the first *there*, which refers to *cheeke* in 119. After *teares* (121) there is a break, and the sentence is never finished; the antecedent of 'em in 123 is 'eyes', suggested by *there*, as Monck Mason, I find, pointed out. The Queen's grief is to be read not in her cheek, but in her eyes, which through the flood of tears look wrinkled and hard like pebbles.

161. *visitating*: 'inspecting'. Simms is responsible for the foolish query *vegetating*.

164. *To give*: by giving; cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 356.

183. *Widdowes*: this word has caused much trouble to commentators. It seems to be used rather carelessly by the author and to infer the idea of sorrow only, not separation. 'Let us live with our woes in widow-like grief.'

192. *foregone*: 'previously undergone' is Skeat's explanation and appears to be what is meant, though the dictionaries hardly sanction this usage. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Forego*.

195-206. These lines with their purely descriptive, non-dramatic lusciousness are not in Shakespeare's mature vein. For a speech in precisely the same tone cf. Massinger, *Duke of Milan*, i. iii. 40-52.

239. *More bigger look't*: 'of more apparent consequence'.

ii. 7-10. 'Not to swim in the direction of the current would be almost to sink altogether, at least to make our striving fruitless; while, on the other hand, to follow the stream would bring us to an eddy,' &c.

17. *Martialist*: cf. *Merry Devil of Edmonton*, v. ii. 179; *Edward III*, iii. iii. 174. The word occurs in *Spanish Tragedy*, Prologue, 46, and twice in Beaumont and Fletcher.

25. *retaine*: 'take into service'; cf. *Henry VIII*, i. ii. 192, and Schmidt, *Sh. Lex*.

44. *Iumpe*: 'precisely'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Jump*, adv.

59. *for*: 'because'; cf. *Cromwell*, iii. iii. 84.

77. *on*: 'one'. It is of some importance to note that certain copies of Q have a semicolon after *on*, while others have no punctuation at all. Cf. note to i. iv. 20.

107. *Thirds*: 'equals the third part of'.

127, 128. 'What damage may be done when our hands are advanced to strike before our hearts are in the cause;' *before* is temporal. Littledale explains *before* as 'further than', which gives the same general meaning.

iii. 30. *which* refers to *Peace* (29).

43, 44. 'In many a corner as dangerous as it was uncomfortable, where peril and want contended with each other.' Littledale thinks that 44 means 'clearly' 'contending against peril and want'.

46. *I'th least of these*: 'As regarded even the less terrible of the two qualities (tyranny and power).'

57. *you* is indefinite; it refers to the person reasoning.

68. S. D. The prompter's marginal memorandum of the persons and properties to be collected for Scene iv.

71. *Lou'd for we did*: 'Loved merely because we did love, without ulterior interest'.

77, 78. Littledale would like to regard the parenthesis as an unauthorized interpolation, but metre and sense are both satisfied by the easy supposition that *oh* was unintentionally misplaced by the compositor. In Q, &c. it stands in the middle of 77, immediately before the parenthesis, whereas its proper position seems to be in the middle of 78, immediately after the parenthesis.

82. *her affections*: 'what she affected'.

85. *on*: probably 'one', but it is possible to regard the word as an adverb depending on *humd*.

90. *Like old importments bastard*: 'like a feeble imitation of some threadbare homily.'

iv. 20. *smeard*: this is the reading of the Bodleian and British Museum copies of Q, but Mr. Daniel's copy reads *succard*. The latter, apparently, was a printer's error discovered and corrected after part of the edition had been printed. Littledale (Bibliography v.) notes six such differences, of which only this and that of i. ii. 77 are of practical consequence. Cf. also *Edward III*, i. ii. 28; *Birth of Merlin*, iv. i. 15 and iv. iii. 62 of this play, with note.

43 ff. These lines are to be taken in immediate connexion with *more* in 42. 'For my sake,' says Theseus, 'do even more than is humanly possible, for I have known mighty passions such as fright, fury, &c. to set and attain a mark which nature could not have reached except under abnormal circumstances.'

v. 9. *convent*: 'summon', 'call together'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Convent* v. 5, and *Twelfth Night*, v. i. 391.

ACT II

i. 1. *depart with*: 'give up'; cf. *King John*, II. i. 563; *Bartholomew Fair*, Induction (*Mermaid* ed., p. 10), and N.E.D. s. v. *Depart* 12. b.

6-7. 'I am reported to be in better circumstances than there seems to me any cause for assuming to assert.'

34. *greise*: 'step'; cf. Nares, s. v. *Grice*, and N.E.D. s. v. *Gree*, where the various spellings of the word are given.

ii. 63. *meere*: 'pure'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Mere* a.2 1. c.

64. The alteration suggested in the footnote would make the sense easier and would require the interpolation of only a single letter; *hold's* for *hold us* is, of course, common enough.

98. *Grave*: 'bury', 'put an end to'. This appears to be the best of the emendations. The original reading *Crave* is not impossible, but it makes the clause rather irrelevant: Arcite is thinking of the ways in which freedom might prove destructive to his friendship with Palamon, not of the danger of being envied by third parties.

110. *sufficient*: 'able'; cf. Schmidt, *Sh. Lex.*

162. *gently* is here trisyllabic. It is, of course, not necessary to adopt Seward's spelling *gently*.

207. Q, F are right in ending this line with *beauties*, which is here to be pronounced in three syllables.

267. Most modern editors place the stage direction after 271, but it furnishes a good illustration as it stands of ancient theatrical arrangements. Our text is based on the prompter's stage copy, as we know from the S.D.D. to I. iii. 68, I. v. 28, &c. In the present case the Keeper is to start from behind the scenes at line 267; in 269 Palamon sees him advancing, and in 271 he is near enough to speak.

iii. 38. *against*: 'in regard to'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Against* 3.

54. *heigh for the weavers*: apparently an allusion to the psalm-singing propensities of the weavers, most of whom were Puritans. Cf. *Twelfth Night*, II. iii. 63; 1 *Henry IV*, II. iv. 148, 149.

v. 4. *allow*: 'praise'; cf. N.E.D.

67. *by the Sun*: 'by sunrise'.

vi. 39. *keepe your selfe*: 'have nobody to keep but yourself'.

ACT III

i. 46, 47. 'Give me language which accords with your actions towards me.'

108. *Musite*: cf. Nares, s. v. *Muse*, *Muset*, or *Musit*. The emendation seems inevitable unless some authority be found for Ingleby's suggestion that *musick* was an old form of *music*.

127. 'Even granted that I have a good title to my present advantages.' The accent rests on *If*. Seward's emendation *I've* is without justification though it has been accepted by all previous editors.

ii. 7. The difference between the *wreake* of Q

and the *reck* of Seward is a matter of spelling only.

21. *char'd*: 'done'; cf. *Sir Thomas More*, III. i. 118, and N.E.D. s. v. *Chare* v. 4. Simms conjectures *cleared* for *char'd*, which surely is no improvement.

27. There seems no reason to alter the text of Q. The various clauses are purposely joined to each other without connectives in order to indicate the wandering mind of the speaker. Seward and Dyce interpolate unnecessary words in order to fill out line 26.

iv. 9. *Spoon her*: 'let her spume, or sail'. Cf. Nares, s. v. *Spoom*. The proper reading is very doubtful. The reading of Q *Vpon* seems certainly wrong, the first two letters being taken from the line below. Herford has a note in defence of Skeat's emendation *Run*, but prints *Spoom* in his text.

v. S. D. *Bavian*: the reading of Q, F *Baum* is an obvious misprint, as we have *Bavian* in line 37. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Babion*.

7. *Jane*: 'jean'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Jean* 2. There can be little doubt that Dyce's emendation is right. Seward suggested *bays*, Knight and Simms *jape*, the latter adding the even worse conjecture *have*.

21. *trace*: cf. *Mucedorus*, IV. iii. 30; *Cambises*, I. 490 (ed. Manly), &c.

58. *fire ill*: explained by Littledale as meaning a particular disease.

67. *alow*: no very satisfactory interpretation of this word has been given. It is probably safest to regard it as a mere exclamation.

139. *penner*: 'case to hold pens'; cf. Nares. Littledale thinks that some document penned is meant.

vi. 240. *have pity*: 'have pity on'.

290. *Opinion*: 'reputation'. The word stands in apposition with *name*. Littledale wishes to understand *Opinion* as 'notoriety' and quotes a not convincing passage from *Thierry and Theodoret* (II. ii). The exclamation refers, of course, to the words of Theseus, 268-72.

298. *worth*: 'befall'; cf. Skeat, *Etymol. Dict.* s. v. *Worth* (2).

324. *Make*: 'Though you make.' Simms, not understanding the construction, changes *dye* in 323 to *dying*.

331. The line makes good sense as it stands and should probably not be altered. Mr. Daniel, in addition to his change of *as your* to *in your*, proposes the further alteration to *in mine*.

ACT IV

i. 103. *Willow, willow*: cf. *Othello*, IV. iii. 28-58, and Littledale's note to this line.

138. *rarely*: 'early'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Rearly*, which is the proper spelling.

ii. 14. *Here* refers to *eye* in 12. 'Eye' is also to be understood after *another* in 15.

74. S. D. *Curtis* was evidently the actor who took the messenger's part. The insertion of his

name is another proof that Q is printed from the prompter's copy. Cf. v. iii, S. D., and *Sir Thomas More*, III. iii. 1.

91. *frisks*: 'lively actions'. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Frisk* 1.

iii. 62. *behind*: here is another instance of variation among the different copies of the quarto, which Littledale has failed to observe. The British Museum copy and apparently most of the others (including Mr. Daniel's) read *behind*, which is obviously right, but the copy in the Bodleian has *behold*.

ACT V

i. 11. Littledale and Mr. Daniel are of opinion that the old reading *nearnesse* may be justified if taken in connexion with the words *German* (i. e. germane, near of kin) *foes* in the preceding line. I am unable to make sense of the passage, however, without some such emendation as that which I have ventured to introduce.

43. *it* refers to *feare*. Theobald's emendation, though adopted by Dyce and Skeat, seems unnecessary.

50, 51. *she* is apparently a personification of *force* and *great feate* in l. 49. *The Queene of Flowers* is Emilia. Simms reads *will stick* in 50.

52. *Cestron*: 'cistern'; cf. N.E.D. Simms misses the meaning and proposes *ceston*, 'a studded girdle,' referring to 'the ring or circle of spectators'!

85. *weepe unto a Girle*: Theobald's explanation of this difficult passage is perhaps the best: 'make him weep till he become girlishly weak.' There is no need of changing *unto* to *into*.

124. *briefe*: 'in brief'.

126. *defyer*: Simms's conjecture of *desire* betrays a total misunderstanding of the passage. *have done* in 125 means 'have really committed the sins they prate of.'

iii. 19. *price*: Littledale conjectures *prize*, but in Elizabethan language the two words are interchangeable.

101. *values shortnes*: I prefer to take *values* as a noun, the phrase being in apposition with *disparity*. Most editors regard *values* as a verb, but the explanation of the passage is then difficult.

iv. 10. *unwapper'd*: 'unwearing'; cf. Wright, *Dict.* s. v. *Wappered*.

58. *dearly* in the sense of 'intensely' is quite possible. Cf. *Merry Devil of Edmonton*, III. ii 16.

120. *arowze*: 'bedew'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Arrouse*.

THE BIRTH OF MERLIN

ACT I

i. 2. *her*: *their* is just possible, as Cadur may mean courteously to include Donobert's other daughter.

35. *worlds*: two syllables.

43. *speaks yours*: 'declares itself in your favour'.

45. A common saying; cf. *Titus Andronicus*, II. i. 82, 83.

67-9. An allusion to the practice of declaring holidays in honour of the dead.

130. *may I whence truly know*: 'if I may keep in mind the true end of my creation.'

ii. 6, 7. 'The fact that his safety is unquestioned should make the healing of your grief a mere matter of time.' The *you* interpolated by WP is not needed.

55. *strength*: a verb.

56, 57. WP propose to give this speech to Aurelius.

87. *take my stomach*: 'excite my appetite'; not, as WP explain, 'take away my appetite.'

119-21. WP have probably found the correct interpretation of these lines. 120 should be regarded as parenthetical, and 121 taken in immediate connexion with *report of thy humanity* in 119. 'Let me because of my sex take back with me the news of your mercy (already a well-known attribute of yours) reporting that our conqueror is so worthy of praise.'

158. 'Tell him our prospective hospitality regards him as such (i. e. our brother).'

160, 161. The syntax is confused, but the meaning is: 'man's fortune, whether good or bad, resembles waves in this that it never comes singly'. Cf. *Hamlet*, IV. v. 78, 79, for the sense.

197. 'Though my jealousy will not pardon any one else for doing so.'

198. If the *me* of the quarto is to be retained after *love*, it must be understood as an 'ethical dative'. Cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 220.

207. *will*: 'as will'.

ACT II

i. 40, 41. *Knight a'th Post*: said by WP to be a slang name for professional false witnesses.

53. *Oh yes*: 'Oyez'; cf. *Oldcastle*, I. i. 9, &c.

95-8. *who, &c.*: 'whom, once overtaken, the eyesight killing Gorgon with a single look made to stand still everlastingly: even so my might, abashed like a cloud which had aspired to cloak the sun, dissolved into a mere shower (of rain or tears).' WP try unsuccessfully to explain the allusions.

104. *thou*: the antecedent is *Pigmalion* in 99, *Oh fate* being a mere exclamation.

134. *a Maid*: Tyrrell proposed unnecessarily *scarce a maid*.

137. *you*: Tyrrell's conjecture of *I* may be correct and is adopted by WP, but the text has a satisfactory meaning as it stands.

157. *a* stands here apparently for *a'th*.

ii. 90. *expose*: 'unsheathe'.

iii. 34. The text of Q is obviously corrupt, and the most satisfactory emendation seems to be that of WP. which we have adopted. We must

assume that the MS. had some such abbreviated form of *through* as *thro'* or *thr'*.

198. *best*: used substantively, 'best prospect.' This word seems genuine, but the line as a whole is certainly obscure and may be corrupt.

ACT III

i. 174. The line is certainly corrupt as it stands. I have no confidence in any of the emendations so far proposed.

209. *fruit*: D's reading *print* does not appear in his prefatory list of emendations and is probably only an uncorrected typographical error.

ii. 160. *you*, the quarto reading, is certainly correct, being contrasted with *me* at the end of the line.

iv. 117, 118. Cf. *Yorkshire Tragedy*, i. 82, 83.

vi. 3. 'Which wakes as soon as it has satisfied its desire and with open eyes is forgot,' &c.

14. *instance suit*: this emendation is claimed by Delius, but it had been silently introduced into the text by Tyrrell five years before.

83. *Deadly Sin*: a reminiscence of the moral interlude.

ACT IV

i. 14. *Cast*: the clown plays on two meanings of the word: (1) 'a number of birds' (N.E.D. s. v. 14), and (2) 'a trick' (N.E.D. s. v. 24).

15. *Covy*: WP give the quarto reading as *Cony*, but the Malone copy in the Bodleian certainly has *Covy*.

Cardeu: 'Quart d'ecu.'

257. *Of*: the modern English, as WP explain, would be *On*.

iii. 3. *fall*: 'cause of falling', 'slayer'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Fall* sb.¹ 17.

v. 79. *agen*: a mere intensive; cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 27.

114. *With Monarch*: 'with the title of monarch'; cf. *Faire Em*, v. i. 35.

ACT V

i. 23. *Sabalists*: Delius quotes the quarto reading incorrectly as *Satalists* and conjectures *satellites*—a most feeble emendation. It is by no means certain that *Sabalists* is wrong, though no editor has been able to explain it. If we must have an emendation, I would suggest *Fabulists*, 'story tellers.' In case the author of the MS. from which Q was printed used a small initial the two words would have been almost identical in appearance.

77. *princeps*: WP retain the quarto reading *preçis*, which they explain as a cabalistic epithet of God. Du Cange, however, recognizes no such word.

ii. 12. *persuade you, then*: 'persuade yourselves (be convinced), then.'

30. *Brittain*: used as an adjective; cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 22.

94. *presents*: 'represents'.

SIR THOMAS MORE

ACT I

i. 6. *like*: 'please'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Like* v.¹ 1. 33. *jettled on*: 'encroached upon'; cf. *Titus Andronicus*, ii. i. 64; *Richard III*, ii. iv. 51, and N.E.D. s. v. *Jet* v.² 1. b.

ii. 56, 64. *heavie friend*: 'enemy'; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Heavy* a.¹ 22. b.

151. *foppe*: Hopkinson suggests *job*, 'trick,' but *fop* is used in this sense. Cf. *London Prodigal*, i. i. 233.

154. *enough*: Hopkinson conjectures *enow* to rhyme with *goe* in 153.

iii. 16-24. The syntax is hopelessly confused, and the text, if not corrupt, must be the result of very careless work. The meaning, however, is clear.

ACT II

i. 15. A common proverb; cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Bate* v.² 6. d.

ii. Two draughts of this scene, varying in the details mentioned in the footnotes, have been preserved.

49. *again*: 'again and again'; cf. *Birth of Merlin*, iv. v. 79, and Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 27.

iii. 3. *sort*: 'crowd'; cf. Webster, s. v. *Sort* n. 5.

37. *thou*: this is Dyce's emendation for *then* of the MS., but the latter is not impossible; after *art* in such sentences *thou* is frequently omitted. Cf. Abbott, *Sh. Gr.* § 241.

43. *thes*: the MS. reading. Dyce prints, apparently by mistake, *the*. Such inaccuracies in Dyce's edition are most rare.

iv. 1-172. These lines have been attributed with the greatest confidence to Shakespeare.

83. *topt*: Spedding thought that the word was *kept* in the MS., but Dyce's reading is probably correct.

119. *your*: after this word something has been lost in the MS. Spedding's conjecture fits the sense rather better than Dyce's.

159. *all*: Spedding's conjecture *alike* would somewhat improve sense and metre, but the MS. does not warrant the change.

162. *montanish*: 'Mohammetanish'; as Mr. Fleay has pointed out, Dyce's change to *mountainish* is unjustifiable.

172. *seek*: with this word the so-called Shakespearean part of this scene ends. The rest is in a very different style and hand.

210. *debble*: cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Dibble* sb.

ACT III

i. 68. *warned to attempt*: 'warned about attempting'. *Warned* is disyllabic.

98. *have lockt vs*: the MS. has simply *have lockt*, with nothing to indicate an omission. The

reading of the text seems to suit the meaning better than Dyce's correction.

ii. 52. *cirstned*: 'christened'. The metathesis is common.

293. *Poll Head*: 'polled (bald) head', an inn sign.

iii. 1. Prefix, *T. Goedal*: these words are written in the MS. just under *Mess.*, showing that T. Goedal was to take the Messenger's part. For what is known of Thomas Goodall cf. Fleay, *History of the Stage*, pp. 84, 372.

ACT IV

i. 1. *dilligent*: there is no authority for Hopkinson's silent alteration *vigilent* (sic).

162-9. Taken from the Prologue to *The Disobedient Child*.

298. *Mason among the kings players*: nothing is known of such a player, nor were there any

'King's Players' in the time of Henry VIII. There may be a covert allusion to some member of the 'Queen's Players'.

363, 364. *dine with Duke Homphrye*: 'go without dinner'. Cf. N.E.D. s. v. *Dine* v. 1. b.

ii. 36. *morall*: 'fabulous', relating to a moral or fable.

37. *with greed*: these words, like other such insertions where the MS. is illegible, have, of course, no authority, but they appear to come nearer to the sense of the passage than Hopkinson's meaningless *together*. Cf. iv. i. 80-1.

v. 68 ff. The revised version of this speech as given on pages 419-20 is considerably finer and should be introduced into the text, except for the difficulty of joining it to what precedes and follows.

ACT V

i. 27. *am*: 'em.

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III. Translations.

IV. General criticism.

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The Temple Dramatists.

(e) FAIR EM

1. *A Pleasant Comedie, of faire Em the Millers daughter of Manchester : With the Loue of William the Conqueror . . . Imprinted at London for T. N. and I. W. . . . (No date). 4°.*
The only known copy is in the Bodleian.
 2. (Another edition) *London, printed for Iohn Wright, 1631. 4°.*
In the British Museum and the Bodleian.
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3. CHETWOOD, W. R., *A Select Collection of Old Plays. Dublin, 1750. 12°.*
Contains untrustworthy reprints of six plays, of which FAIR EM is the second.
 4. TYRRELL, *Doubtful Plays, &c.* London, 1851. 8°. Pp. 324-47.
 5. DELIUS, *Fair Em. Ein Shakspere zugeschriebenes Drama. Elberfeld, 1874. 8°. Pseudo-Shakspere'sche Dramen V.*
 6. SIMPSON, *School of Shakspere, London, 1878. 8°. Vol. ii, pp. 337-468.*
 7. WARNKE and PROESCHOLDT, *The Comedie of Faire Em. Revised and edited with Introduction and Notes. Halle, 1883. 8°.*
Pseudo-Shakespearean Plays I.
 8. HOPKINSON, *Doubtful Plays of Shakespeare. 8°. Vol. iii. London, 1895.*

(f) LOCRINE

1. *The Lamentable Tragedie of Loocrine, the eldest sonne of King Brutus . . . Newly set forth, overseene and corrected, by W. S. London. Printed by Thomas Creede, 1595. 4°.*
In the Bodleian and the British Museum.
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2. *The Third Folio of Shakespeare, London, 1664.*
 3. *The Fourth Folio of Shakespeare, London, 1685.*
 4. *Rowe's Shakespeare, vol. vi. London, 1709. 8°.*
Second edition. Vol. viii. London, 1714. 12°.
 5. *Pope's Shakespeare. Vol. ix. London, 1728. 12°.*
(Another edition) vol. ix (?). London, 1735. 12°.
 6. *The Tragedy of Loocrine, the eldest son of King Brutus. By Mr. William Shakespear. J. Tonson. London, 1734. 12°.*
 7. (Another edition) *By Shakespear. R. Walker : London, 1734. 12°.*

8. (Malone's) *Supplement to Shakespeare*, London, 1780. 8°. Vol. ii, pp. 187-264.
9. SIMMS, *Supplement to Shakspeare*. New York, 1848.
Second edition, 1855. Pp. 151-78.
10. TYRRELL, *Doubtful Plays*, &c. London, 1851. Pp. 232-62.
11. HAZLITT, *Supplementary Works of Shakespeare*. London, 1852. Pp. 57-104.
Second edition 1887.
12. MOLTKE, *Doubtful Plays of William Shakespeare*. Leipzig, 1869. Pp. 131-94.
13. HOPKINSON, *Shakespeare's Doubtful Plays*. Vol. ii. London, 1892.

(g) LONDON PRODIGAL, THE

1. *The London Prodigall* . . . By William Shakespeare. London. Printed by T. C. for Nathaniel Butter . . . 1605.
In the Bodleian.

2. *The Third Folio of Shakespeare*. London, 1664.
3. *The Fourth Folio of Shakespeare*. London, 1685.
4. *The London Prodigal, a comedy* (Anonymous). 1709. 8°.
5. Rowe's Shakespeare. Vol. vi. London, 1709. 8°.
Second edition. Vol. viii. London, 1714. 12°.
6. Pope's Shakespeare. Vol. ix. London, 1728. 12°.
Another edition. Vol. ix (?). London, 1735. 12°.
7. (Another edition) By Mr. William Shakespear. J. Tonson. London, 1734. 12°.
8. (Another edition) By Shakespear. London. Printed by R. Walker . . . 1734. 12°.
9. (Malone's) *Supplement to Shakespeare*. London, 1780. 8°. Vol. ii, pp. 447-529.
10. *The Ancient British Drama*. London, Edinburgh, 1810. 8°. Vol. i.
11. SIMMS, *Supplement to Shakspeare*. New York, 1848.
Second edition, 1855. Pp. 45-65.
12. TYRRELL, *Doubtful Plays*, &c. London, 1851. 8°. Pp. 97-127.
13. HAZLITT, W. C., *Supplementary Works of Shakespeare*. London, 1852. 8°. Pp. 206-48.
Second edition, 1887.
14. MOLTKE, *Doubtful Plays*, &c. Leipzig, 1869. 16°. Pp. 219-78.
15. HOPKINSON, *Shakespeare's Doubtful Plays*. Vol. ii. London, 1893. 8°.

(h) MERRY DEVIL OF EDMONTON, THE

1. *The Merry Devill of Edmonton* . . . London. Printed by Henry Ballard for Arthur Iohnson . 1608. 4°.
In the library of Trinity College, Cambridge.
2. (Another edition) 1612. Printed for Arthur Iohnson. 4°.
In the library of Mr. A. H. Huth. I have not been able to see the unique copy of this edition, but its variant readings have been recorded by Warnke and Proescholdt.
3. (Another edition) 1617. Printed for Arthur Iohnson. 4°.
In the British Museum and the Bodleian.
4. (Another edition) 1626. Printed for Francis Falkner. 4°.
In the British Museum.
5. (Another edition) 1631. Printed for Francis Falkner. 4°.
In the British Museum and the Bodleian.
6. (Another edition) 1655. Printed for W. Gilbertson. 4°.
In the British Museum.

7. DODSLEY's *Select Collection of Old Plays*, 1st ed. London, 1744. Vol. xi.
8. (Reed's) Dodsley 2nd ed. London, 1780. 8°. Vol. v.
9. *The Ancient British Drama*. Lond., Edin., 1810. 8°. Vol. ii.
10. (Collier's) Dodsley, 3rd ed. London, 1825. Vol. v. 8°.
11. TYRRELL, *Doubtful Plays*. London, 1851. 8°. Pp. 300-23.
12. (Hazlitt's) Dodsley, 4th ed. London, 1874-6. Vol. x. 8°.
13. WARNKE and PROESCHOLDT, *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*. Revised and edited with Introduction and Notes. Halle, 1884. 8°. *Pseudo-Shakespearian Plays II*.
14. HOPKINSON, *Shakespeare's Doubtful Plays*. Vol. i. London, 1891. 8°.
15. WALKER, HUGH, *The Merry Devil of Edmonton*. A Comedy. Edited with a Preface, Notes and Glossary. London, 1897. 8°. *The Temple Dramatists*.

(i) MORE, SIR THOMAS

1. MS. Harleian 7368.
In the British Museum. The MS. bears neither title, date, nor the author's name.
2. DYCE, Sir Thomas More. *A Play; Now first printed*. Edited by the Rev. Alexander Dyce. Printed for the Shakespeare Society, 1844. 8°.
3. HOPKINSON, Sir Thomas More. *Edited with an Introduction*. For private circulation London, 1902. 8°.

(k) MUCEDORUS

1. *A most pleasant Comedy of Mucedorus the king's sonne of Valentia and Amadine the king's daughter of Arragon, with the merie conceites of Mouse*. Newly set forth. . . London. Printed for William Iones . . . 1598. 4°. In the British Museum.
2. (Another edition) *Printed for William Iones*. 1606. 4°. In the Dyce Collection, South Kensington.
3. (Another edition) *Amplified with new additions . . . Imprinted at London for William Iones . . . 1610*. 4°. In the British Museum and Trinity College, Cambridge.
4. (Another edition) *Printed for William Iones*. 1611. 4°. In the Bodleian.
5. (Another edition) *Printed for William Iones*. 1613. 4°. In the British Museum.
6. (Another edition) *Printed for William Iones*. 1615. 4°. In the British Museum and Trinity College, Cambridge.
7. (Another edition) *Printed for Iohn Wright*. 1618. 4°. In Mr. Huth's Library. I have not seen this edition.
8. (Another edition) *Printed for Iohn Wright*. 1619. 4°. In the British Museum and the Bodleian.
9. (Another edition) *Printed for Iohn Wright*. 1621. 4°. In the Municipal Library of Danzig. I have not seen this edition. Warnke and Proescholdt record its variant readings.
10. (Another edition) *Printed for Iohn Wright*. 1626. 4°. In the Dyce Collection.
11. (Another edition) *Printed for Iohn Wright*. 1631. 4°. In the British Museum.
12. (Another edition) *Printed for Iohn Wright*. 1634. 4°. In the British Museum.

13. (Another edition) *Printed for John Wright.* 1639. 4°. In Trinity College, Cambridge, Library.
14. (Another edition) *Printed for Francis Coles.* 1663. 4°. In the Bodleian.
15. (Another edition) *Printed for Francis Coles.* 1668. 4°. In British Museum, Bodleian, and Trinity College, Cambridge.
16. (Another edition) *Printed for Francis Coles.* (No date.) 4°. In British Museum and Trinity College, Cambridge.
17. (Another edition)
The only known copy, in Trinity College, Cambridge, has lost its title page.
18. Another edition published for subscribers by J. P. Collier, 1824.
This text claims for its original a quarto of 1609, which is probably fictitious. I have not been able to see a copy of this or of Collier's other edition (No. 22).
19. TYRRELL, *Doubtful Plays*, &c. London, 1851. 8°. Pp. 348-72.
20. (HAZLITT, W. C.) *A Select Collection of Old Plays.*
Fourth edition, London, 1874-6. 8°. Vol. vii.
The earlier editions of this collection (Dodsley's) did not include MUCEDORUS.
21. DELIUS, *Mucedorus. Ein Shakspeare zugeschriebenes Drama.* Elberfeld, 1874. 8°. *Pseudo-Shakspeare'sche Dramen IV.*
22. COLLIER, *Shakespeare's Plays and Poems.* Maidenhead, 1878.
23. WARNKE and PROESCHOLDT, *The Comedy of Mucedorus, revised and edited with Introduction and Notes.* Halle, 1878. 8°.
24. HOPKINSON, *Shakespeare's Doubtful Plays.* Vol. ii. London, 1893. 8°.

(I) OLDCASTLE, SIR JOHN

1. *The first part of the true and honorable historie, of the life of Sir John Old-castle, the good Lord Cobham* (Anonymous) . . . London. Printed by V. S. for Thomas Pawier . . . 1600. 4°. In the Bodleian (Malone 768).
2. (Another edition of the same year) *Written by William Shakespeare.* London, printed for T. P. 1600. 4°. In the Bodleian (Malone 222) and the British Museum.
3. The Third Folio of Shakespeare. London. 1664.
4. The Fourth Folio of Shakespeare. London. 1685.
5. Rowe's Shakespeare, vol. vi. London, 1709. 8°. Second edition, vol. viii. London, 1714. 12°.
6. Pope's Shakespeare, vol. ix. London, 1728. 12°. Another edition, vol. ix (?). London, 1735. 12°.
7. *The History of Sir John Oldcastle, the good Lord Cobham.* By Mr. William Shakespear . . . J. Tonson, London, 1734. 8°. In the British Museum.
8. (Another edition) *By Shakespeare.* London: Printed by R. Walker . . . 1734. 8°. In the Bodleian.
9. (Another impression?) *By Shakespeare.* (London.) 1735. 12°. In the British Museum.
10. (Malone's) *Supplement to Shakespeare.* London, 1780. 8°. Vol. ii, pp. 265-370.
11. SIMMS, *Supplement to the Plays of William Shakspeare.* New York, 1848. Second edition, 1855. Pp. 87-115.
12. TYRRELL, *Doubtful Plays.* London, 1851. 8°. Pp. 128-67.

13. HAZLITT, W. C., *Supplementary Works of Shakespeare*. London, 1852. 8°. Pp. 105-64.
Reprinted 1887.
14. HOPKINSON, *Shakespeare's Doubtful Plays*. Vol. iii. London, 1894. 8°.

(m) THE PURITAN

1. *The Puritaine or the Widow of Watling-streete*. . . Written by W. S. Imprinted at London by G. Eld, 1607. 4°. In the Bodleian and the British Museum.

2. *The Third Folio of Shakespeare*. London, 1664.
3. *The Fourth Folio of Shakespeare*. London, 1685.
4. Rowe's *Shakespeare*, vol. vi. London, 1709. 8°. Second edition, vol. viii. London, 1714. 12°.
5. Pope's *Shakespeare*, vol. ix. London, 1728. 12°. (Another edition) vol. ix (?). London, 1735. 12°.
6. *The Puritan : or, the Widow of Watling-street. A Comedy*. By Shakespear. London : Printed by R. Walker. . . 1734.
In the Bodleian (Malone 935) ; rare.
7. (Another edition) By Mr. William Shakespear. J. Tonson : London, 1734. 12°. In the British Museum.
8. (Malone's) *Supplement to Shakespeare*. London, 1780. 8°. Vol. ii, pp. 531-627.
9. SIMMS, *Supplement to the Plays of William Shakespeare*. New York, 1848. Second edition, 1855. Pp. 117-40.
10. TYRRELL, *Doubtful Plays, &c*. London, 1851. 8°. Pp. 197-231.
11. HAZLITT, W. C., *Supplementary Works of Shakespeare*. London, 1852. 8°. Pp. 249-98.
Second edition, 1887.
12. HOPKINSON, *Shakespeare's Doubtful Plays*, vol. iii. London. 1895. 8°.

(n) TWO NOBLE KINSMEN, THE

1. *The Two Noble Kinsmen* . . . Written by the memorable Worthies of their time Mr. John Fletcher, and Mr. William Shakspeare, Gent. Printed at London by Tho. Cotes, for John Waterson . . . 1634. 4°. In the Bodleian, British Museum, &c.
2. *Fifty Comedies and Tragedies*. Written by Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher Gentlemen. All in One Volume . . . Printed by J. Maccock, for John Martyn. . . 1679. Fol. The second folio of Beaumont and Fletcher. THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN is printed in the second part of the volume, pp. 425-49, with no mention of Shakespeare's authorship.

3. *The Third Edition of Beaumont and Fletcher*. London (Tonson), 1711. Volume x.
4. *The Fourth Edition of Beaumont and Fletcher*. London, 1750. Volume x. 8°. Edited by Seward, Sympson & Theobald.
5. *The Fifth Edition of Beaumont and Fletcher*, London, 1778. 8°. Edited by Colman.
6. *The Dramatic Works of Ben Jonson, and Beaumont and Fletcher* . . . the latter from the text and with the notes of G. Coleman. 1811. 8°.
7. *The Modern British Drama*. London, Edinburgh, 1811. 8°. Five vols. Vol. i contains THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN.

8. The Seventh Edition of Beaumont and Fletcher. *London*, 1812. 8°. Edited by Weber.
9. KNIGHT, *Pictorial Shakespeare*. *London*, 1839-43. 8°. Vol. vii, pp. 121-87. Second edition, 1866, with improved text.
10. *Works of Beaumont and Fletcher. With an Introduction by GEORGE DARLEY. In Two Volumes*. *London*, 1839-40. Vol. ii. 8°. Another edition, 1872. Vol. ii, pp. 553-80.
11. *Works of Beaumont and Fletcher; The Text formed from a New Collation of the Early Editions . . . by the REV. ALEXANDER DYCE*. Vol. xi. *London*, 1846. 8°. Improved text.
12. SIMMS, *Supplement, &c.* *New York*, 1848. 8°. Second edition, 1855. Pp. 13-44.
13. TYRRELL, *Doubtful Plays, &c.* *London*, 1851. 8°. Pp. 444-84.
14. DYCE, *Works of Shakespeare. 2nd Edition*. 1867. Vol. viii. Pp. 115-233. Reprinted in the third edition, 1876.
15. SKEAT, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. *Cambridge*, 1875. 8°.
16. LITTLEDALE, *The Two Noble Kinsmen. Reprint of the First Quarto, 1634, with a Collation of the Second Edition, Folio, 1679, and Revised Text. Published for the New Shakspeare Society*. *London*. 1876. 4°. This is the standard edition.
17. FURNIVALL, *The Leopold Shakspeare*. *London, &c.*, 1877. 8°. Pp. 1010-36. Reprinted as *The Royal Shakspeare*, 1894-8.
18. COLLIER, *Shakespeare's Plays and Poems*. *Maidenhead*, 1878. This edition I have not seen.
19. FITZGIBBON, H. M., *Famous Elizabethan Plays. Expurgated . . . London*, 1890. 8°.
20. ROLFE, W. J., *The Two Noble Kinsmen. Edited with notes. New York*, 1891. 8°. *The Friendly Edition*.
21. HUDSON, H. N., *The Two Noble Kinsmen, edited with notes. Edinburgh*. 8°. *The Windsor Shakespeare*, published in America as the *Harvard Shakespeare*.
22. HOPKINSON, *Shakespeare's Doubtful Plays*. Vol. iii. *London*, 1894. 8°.
23. HERFORD, *The Two Noble Kinsmen. Edited with a Preface, Notes, and Glossary*. *London*, 1897. 8°. *The Temple Dramatists*.

(o) YORKSHIRE TRAGEDY, A

1. *A Yorkshire Tragedy. Not so New as Lamentable and true. Acted by his Maiesties Players at the Globe. Written by W. Shakspeare. At London. Printed by R. B. for Thomas Pawier . . . 1608.*
In the Bodleian and the British Museum.
2. (Another edition) *Written by W. Shakespeare. Printed for T. P.*, 1619.
In the Bodleian and the British Museum.
3. Third Folio of Shakespeare. *London*, 1664.
4. Fourth Folio of Shakespeare. *London*, 1685.
5. Rowe's Shakespeare, vol. vi. *London*, 1709. 8°. Second edition, vol. viii. *London*, 1714. 12°.
6. Pope's Shakespeare, vol. ix. *London*, 1728. 12°. (Another edition) vol. ix (?). *London*, 1735. 12°.
7. *A Yorkshire Tragedy . . . By Mr. William Shakespeare . . . J. Tonson*. *London*, 1735.
8. (Malone's) *Supplement to Shakespeare*. *London*, 1780. Vol. ii. Pp. 629-79.
9. *The Ancient British Drama*. *London, Edinburgh*, 1810. 8°. Vol. i.

10. KNIGHT, *Pictorial Shakespeare*. London, 1839-43. 8°. Vol. vii. Pp. 239-55.
11. SIMMS, *Supplement to the Plays of W. Shakspeare*. New York, 1848. Second edition, 1855. Pp. 141-50.
12. TYRRELL, *Doubtful Plays, &c.* London, 1851. 8°. Pp. 81-96.
13. HAZLITT, W. C., *Supplementary Works, &c.* London, 1852. 8°. Pp. 299-317. Reprinted 1887.
14. MOLTKE, *Doubtful Plays, &c.* Leipzig, 1869. 16°. Pp. 195-218.
15. COLLIER, *Plays and Poems of Shakespeare*. Maidenhead, 1878. Very rare. I have not been able to see a copy.
16. HOPKINSON, *Shakespeare's Doubtful Plays*. Vol. i. London, 1891. 8°.

III. TRANSLATIONS

1. TIECK, L., *Allenglisches Theater, oder Supplemente zum Shakespeare*. 2 Bde. Berlin, 1811. 8°. Vol. i: German Translation of THE TROUBLESOME REIGN OF KING JOHN, GEORGE A GREENE, PERICLES. Vol. ii: LOCRINE, THE MERRY DEVIL OF EDMONTON, KING LEIR AND HIS DAUGHTERS.

2. TIECK, L., *Shakespeare's Vorschule*. Leipzig, 1823. 8°.

Translation of ARDEN OF FEVERSHAM, FAIR EM, THE BIRTH OF MERLIN.

3. DÖRING, H. (German translation of *Arden of Feversham*), Gotha, 1833. 2nd edition, Erfurt, 1840.

Quoted by Warnke and Proescholdt: I have not seen a copy.

4. TIECK, L., *Vier Schauspiele von Shakspeare*. Übersetzt von L. Tieck. Stuttgart und Tübingen, 1836. 8°.

Translation of EDWARD III, CROMWELL, SIR JOHN OLDCASTLE, THE LONDON PRODIGAL (Der Londoner verlorne Sohn).

5. ORTLEPP, ERNST, *Nachträge zu Shakspeare's Werken von Schlegel und Tieck*. 4 Bde. Stuttgart, 1840. 8°.

Contents: Vol. i, DER LONDONER VERLORNE SOHN, LEBEN UND TOD DES THOMAS CROMWELL, DIE GEBURT DES MERLIN, SIR JOHN OLDCASTLE, EIN TRAUERSPIEL IN YORKSHIRE; Vol. ii: PERIKLES FÜRST VON TYRUS, EDUARD DER DRITTE, DER LUSTIGE TEUFEL VON EDMONTON, LOKRINE; Vol. iii: ARDEN VON FEVERSHAM, Vermischte Gedichte, &c.

These translations are based very largely on those of Tieck.

6. HUGO, FRANÇOIS VICTOR (French translation of pseudo-Shakespearean plays in supplement of), *Oeuvres de William Shakespeare Traduits, &c.* Paris, 1859-67.

7. MOLTKE, M., *König Eduard der Dritte, Uebersetzt und mit einem Nachwort begleitet*. Leipzig (1875).

No. 65 of Reclam's *Universal-Bibliothek*.

8. HAGEN, AUGUST, *Eduard der Dritte. Trauerspiel in fünf Aufzügen von William Shakespeare. Nach der Übersetzung von Ludwig Tieck frei bearbeitet*. Leipzig, 1879.

9. KUITERT, G. B., *Meesterstukken onder Shakespeare's Pseudo-Drama's, vertaald en toegelicht door G. B. K.* Leiden, 1882.

Contains translation into Dutch of ARDEN OF FEVERSHAM and A YORKSHIRE TRAGEDY, with commentary.

10. MUCEDORUS. *Übersetzt von L. Tieck*. 1893. 8°.

Discovered among Tieck's literary remains and published by Dr. J. Bolte.

IV. GENERAL CRITICISM

1. BAESKE, WILHELM. *Oldcastle-Falstaff in der Englischen Literatur bis zu Shakespeare*. Berlin, 1905.

2. BAYNE, REV. RONALD, *Preface to Arden of Feversham in the Temple Dramatists Series*. London, 1897.

3. BIERFREUND, DR. TH., *Palamon og Arcite. En Literaturhistorisk Undersøgeke som bidrag til Shakespearekritiken.* København, 1891.
4. BOAS, FREDERICK S., *The Works of Thomas Kyd, edited from the Original Texts with Introduction, Notes, and Facsimile.* Oxford, 1901.
Introduction, pp. lxxix, ff. (*Arden of Feversham*).
5. BOURGES, *Un drame du 16^e siècle, Arden de Feversham.* In 'Parlement', 28 Août, 1882. I have not seen this.
6. BOYLE, ROBERT, *Shakespeare und die beiden edlen Vettern. Eine metrisch-kritische Abhandlung.* St. Petersburg, 1880.
7. —, *On Massinger and the Two Noble Kinsmen.* Transactions New Shakspeare Society, 1880-5, pp. 371-99.
8. BROMILOW, A. H., *Arden of Feversham.*
Colburn's New Monthly Magazine 164 : 175.
I have not seen this.
9. BULLEN, A. H., *Arden of Feversham, London, 1887.*
Critical Introduction to the play.
10. —, *The Works of Thomas Middleton.* London, 1885.
Introduction, pp. lxxxix-xc, for discussion of *The Puritan*.
11. CAPELL, EDWARD, *Prolusions, or Select Pieces of Ancient Poetry.* London, 1760.
Preface to *Edward III*.
12. CHASLES, PHILARET und F. GUIZOT, *William Shakespeare, sein Leben, seine Werke und seine Zeit.* Leipzig. 1855.
Pp. 336-43.
Summary of German opinion on the doubtful plays.
13. CLIFTON SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY. *Report of Meetings.*
January 23, 1886, *Lochrine*; March 27, 1887, *The London Prodigal*; May 28, 1887, *Edward III*.
14. COLERIDGE, S. T., *Literary Remains.* London, 1836. Vol. ii, pp. 320-1.
The Two Noble Kinsmen.
15. COLLIER, J. PAYNE, *The History of English Dramatic Poetry to the Time of Shakespeare: and Annals of the Stage to the Restoration.* 3 vol. London, 1831.
Discussion of *A Yorkshire Tragedy* and *Arden of Feversham* in vol. iii, pp. 49-60, with other references.
16. —, *King Edward III: A Historical Play by William Shakespeare. An Essay in Vindication of Shakespeare's Authorship of the Play.* Maidenhead, 1874.
Same article *Athenaeum*, No. 2422, p. 426, March 28, 1874.
17. COLLINS, J. CHURTON, *The Plays and Poems of Robert Greene, Edited with Introductions and Notes.* 2 volumes. Oxford, 1905. General Introduction, pp. 60-1, 64-7.
Mucedorus and *Lochrine*.
18. CRAWFORD, CHARLES, *The Authorship of Arden of Feversham.* Jahrbuch der deutschen Shakespeare-Gesellschaft xxxix, pp. 74-86. Berlin, 1903.
19. —, *Spenser, 'Lochrine,' and 'Selimus'.* 9 Notes and Queries vii, pp. 61-3, 101-3, 142-4, 203-5, 261-3, 324-5, 384-6. 1901.
20. DANIEL, P. A. *Athenaeum*, No. 2710, October 4, 1879.
Note on 'Shakespeare's (?) *Yorkshire Tragedy*, 1608'.
21. —, *Athenaeum*, No. 3677, April 16, 1898.
Note on 'Lochrine and Selimus'.
22. DARLEY, G., *Works of Beaumont and Fletcher.* London, 1856. Introduction, p. xlii.
The Two Noble Kinsmen.

23. DELIUS, NICOLAUS, *Abhandlungen zu Shakspeare. Neue Folge. Elberfeld, 1888.*
Pp. 1-34: Die angebliche Shakspeare-Fletcher'sche Autorschaft des Dramas *The Two Noble Kinsmen*.
24. ——— *Pseudo-Shakspeare'sche Dramen. Elberfeld, 1854-74.*
Vorreden to texts of Edward III, Arden of Feversham, The Birth of Merlin, Mucedorus, Fair Em.
25. DE QUINCEY, THOMAS, *Style and Rhetoric and other Papers. Complete Works, vol. x. Edinburgh, 1862.* P. 49, note. *The Two Noble Kinsmen*.
26. DONNE, C. E., *An Essay on the Tragedy of Arden of Feversham. London and Faversham, 1873.*
27. ELZE, KARL, *Notes on Elizabethan Dramatists. Halle, 1880.*
Brief mention and discussion of nine doubtful plays.
28. ———, *Nachträgliche Bemerkungen zu 'MUCEDORUS' und 'FAIR EM'.* Jahrbuch der deutsch. Shakspeare-Gesellschaft, xv, pp. 339-52. 1880.
29. ERBE, THEODOR, *Die Locrinesage und die Quellen des Pseudo-Shakespeareschen Locrine. Halle a. S., 1904.*
- FARMER. See MALONE.
30. FLEAY, FREDERICK GARD, *On the play called 'Edward the Third'. Academy, April 25, 1874, pp. 462-3.*
31. ———, *Mr. Hickson's Division of The Two Noble Kinsmen Confirmed by Metrical Tests.* Transactions New Shakspeare Society, 1874, pp. 61*-64*.
32. ———, *Shakespeare Manual. London, 1876.* Pp. 52, 56-7, 59, 172-4, 281-6, 303-6.
33. ———, *Chronicle History of the Life and Work of Wm. Shakespeare, Player, Poet, and Playmaker. London, 1886, pp. 252-4, 282-3, 285-90, 291-6, 298-301, 302-5.*
34. ———, *A Chronicle History of the London Stage 1559-1642. London, 1890.*
35. ———, *A Biographical Chronicle of the English Drama 1559-1642. Two volumes. London, 1891.*
36. FRIESEN, H. FREIHERR VON, *Flüchtige Bemerkungen über einige Stücke, welche Shakespeare zugeschrieben werden. Jahrbuch d. deutsch. Sh.-Gesellschaft I, pp. 160-5. 1865.*
Discusses *The Merry Devil of Edmonton* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*.
37. ———, *Edward III. Angeblich ein Stück von Shakespeare. Jahrbuch d. deutsch. Sh.-Gesellschaft II, pp. 64-89. 1867.*
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V. EARLY NOTICES, SOURCES, ANALOGUES, ETC.

(a) NOTICES IN CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTS

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Contains licensing notices of most of the plays.
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Record of Court presentation of *THE MERRY DEVIL OF EDMONTON* (p. xlv) and other information.

3. *The Diary of Philip Henslowe from 1591 to 1609.* Edited for the *Shakespeare Society* by J. PAYNE COLLIER. London, 1845.

Record of the authors of THE FIRST PART OF SIR JOHN OLDCASTLE (p. 158, October 16, 1599) and other information.

(b) EARLY CATALOGUES OF PLAYS

1. *An exact and perfect Catalogue of all the Plaies that were ever printed; together with all the Authors Names; and what are Comedies, Histories, Interludes, Masks, Pastorels, Tragedies . . .* [Printed at the end of *The Old Law*, 1656].

This list assigns to Shakespeare: THE ARRAIGNMENT OF PARIS; THE CHANCES; CROMWELL'S HISTORIE; HOFFMAN; HIERONIMO, both parts; JOHN K. OF ENGLAND, both parts; LONDON PRODIGALL; MERRY DIVELL OF EDMOND.; MUCIDORUS; PURITAN WIDOW; PYROCLES PRINCE OF TYRE; ROMAN ACTOR; TWO NOBLE KINSMEN; TAMING OF A SHREW; TRICK TO CATCH THE OLD ONE; YORKSHIRE TRAGEDIE.

2. *An exact and perfect Catalogue of all Playes that are Printed . . .* [Affixed to Th. Goff's *Careless Shepherdess*, 1656].

Assigns to Shakespeare, besides the usual doubtful plays, EDWARD II, EDWARD III, and EDWARD IV.

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The William the Conqueror part of FAIR EM is taken, with considerable alterations, from the fourth tale in this book.

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